

# THE SHERLOCK HOLMES TAROT



*Wisdom from the First Consulting Detective*



JOHN MATTHEWS AND WIL KINGHAN

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES  
TAROT



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*To my old friend Barrie Ingham, for his wonderful portrayal of another incarnation of SH in the film of Basil the Great Mouse Detective, and in memory of Jeremy Brett (1933–1995), surely the greatest Holmes of all time.*

JOHN MATTHEWS

*Thanks to my wife Melanie for all her support and for being Irene Adler, and to my daughter Anabelle for being my little star!*

WIL KINGHAN



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## PREFACE

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Why do we love Sherlock Holmes? This question has been asked many times before, and a variety of answers given. One of the best and most often quoted is that of Edgar W. Smith, editor of *The Baker Street Journal* and head of the Baker Street Irregulars, one of many Holmesian clubs. Holmes is, Smith says, writing in 1946, 'the personification of something in us that we have lost, or never had. For it is not Sherlock Holmes who sits in Baker Street, comfortable, competent, and self-assured; it is we ourselves who are there, full of a tremendous capacity for wisdom, complacent in the presence of our humble Watson, conscious of warmth and well-being and a timeless, imperishable content ... the Holmes implicit and eternal in ourselves.'

There is no doubt that this is a well-considered answer, and true, to some extent. But it is not just the competent wisdom and self-assurance of Holmes that we love – it is his cleverness. For those who love the Holmes stories, there can be nothing as gratifying as watching him defeat enemy after enemy, criminal after criminal, with the easy insouciance of a great mind. Few of us would claim such a mighty intellect, but – just for a time – as we follow in the footsteps of the great detective, we are ourselves imbued with his wisdom and his abilities. We are on the side of the angels, and we revel in the power that feeling brings.

With this in mind, we offer this latest addition to the vast inner landscape of Sherlock Holmes, in a sincere desire to extend the wonder of his prescient skill into a dimension where he would perhaps never have strayed, but might well have excelled. We hope that the thousands of fans of Holmes and Watson may discover something new to enjoy here, and that the vast ocean of tarot users may find something both challenging and illuminating in the bringing together of these two strands of wisdom and enlightenment.

JOHN MATTHEWS & WIL KINGHAN  
OXFORD, 2013



PART ONE

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# THE WISDOM OF HOLMES & WATSON

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*- Evolution of a legend -*



*'I never guess. It is a shocking habit -  
destructive to the logical faculty.'*

THE SIGN OF FOUR



## The Man Behind the Stories

*A*rthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh on 22nd May 1859, of mixed English and Irish parentage. Five years after his birth, the family separated due to his father's increasing alcoholism, and Arthur and his siblings were temporarily housed away from their parents. Thanks to the support of a wealthy uncle, however, Doyle received an excellent education, initially at a Jesuit school in Sussex and afterwards, briefly, in Austria, before returning to Edinburgh to study medicine.

Doyle had already evinced a desire to be a writer. He submitted stories to several magazines at this time, and his first published story – ‘The Mystery of Sasassa Valley’ – appeared in 1879, when Doyle was only twenty. The first Holmes story was still eight years away, but Doyle was already determined to make a living as a writer rather than a doctor.

His early career was nothing if not varied. His first job as a qualified doctor was on a Greenland whaler, followed by that of ship’s surgeon on the SS *Mayumba*, on a voyage to the West African coast. The experiences he had at this time certainly coloured his writings, which, beyond the Holmes canon, included the wonderful stories of the black-haired and frequently apoplectic Professor Challenger, in books which – among other things – may be said, along with the Tarzan stories of Edgar Rice Burroughs, to have launched the ‘Lost World’ genre.

## The Great Detective is Born

The fame of Holmes and Watson was established almost from the arrival of the first story in 1887. The novel *A Study in Scarlet*, followed three years later by *The Sign of the Four* (also known as *The Sign of Four*), proved so popular with the reading public that, in 1891, the first short story – *A Scandal in Bohemia* – was

published in *The Strand Magazine* in London, appearing a mere few days later in *Lippincott's Magazine* in the USA. These two journals became the permanent home of Sherlock Holmes tales, through the fifty-six stories and two further novels that Doyle penned over the following thirty-six years up until 1927, three years before his death.

During this period, the characters of Holmes and his trusty chronicler became a phenomenon scarcely equalled until our own time, with the Harry Potter books of J. K. Rowling. People queued for hours waiting for the next issue of the magazine to appear, and could not get enough of the adventures of the hawk-faced detective. Yet Doyle himself soon tired of his creation, and famously killed him off in the story *The Final Problem*, producing such an outcry from his readers that he was forced to bring the detective back to life for a further series of adventures.

### *The real Holmes?*

Doyle himself said that the character of Sherlock Holmes was inspired by one Dr Joseph Bell, with whom he worked at the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh from 1877 to 1881. Like Holmes, Bell was noted for reaching startlingly accurate conclusions from the smallest observations, and, while his deductions focused on medical problems, his ability to deduce the causes of illness can be seen to parallel Holmes' deductive powers, to some degree. Years later, however, Bell was to write to Doyle: 'You are yourself Sherlock Holmes and well you know it.'

Another reputed source for the great detective is Sir Henry Littlejohn, a lecturer on forensic medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons. Littlejohn served as Police Surgeon and Medical Officer of Health for Edinburgh, providing a link between medical investigation and the detection of crime. But Bell was right – the real

Sherlock Holmes is Doyle himself, just as he is also Watson and even Moriarty. His own keen mind and wide-ranging imagination enabled him to clearly envisage the inner workings of his creation.

### The Legend Continues

A veritable ocean of ink has been spilled in the years since the last Holmes story appeared. Numerous additional accounts of Holmes' adventures have been written; commentaries and interpretations have flowed like a river in what has now become an industry. Speculations, from the 'real' people upon whom Doyle based his character to the possible homosexual relationship of Holmes and Watson, have kept jobbing writers in employment for years, and a vast network of clubs and groups has sprung up around the world. The details of 'the canon' of stories are fiercely debated and just as fiercely protected by people from every walk of life, virtually every nationality, and every strata of society. The fame of Sherlock Holmes is now truly universal, boosted in recent years by the huge commercial success of the films starring Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law as the eponymous heroes, and the equally successful British television series *Sherlock*, setting Holmes in the present – followed by an American spin-off, *Elementary*, notable for making Watson female! As a result, there are currently few people in the world who have not heard of the great detective.

Yet, until now, no fully fledged Sherlock Holmes Tarot has been produced – despite the fact that, when the archetypal characters from Conan Doyle's stories are matched with the archetypes of the tarot, they can be shown to fit amazingly well! Who better to represent The Fool, for example, than the bumbling Inspector Lestrade, or 'The Devil than Holmes' nemesis Professor Moriarty? And what better representative of Strength than the redoubtable Watson? The great detective himself appears as The

Magician, while the Hound of the Baskervilles replaces the traditional Moon. And, in the Minor Arcana, instead of the traditional suits of Swords, Wands, Cups and Coins we have Observation, Evidence, Analysis and Deduction, reflecting both Holmes' skills and the inner meanings of the tarot.

### Would Doyle approve?

How would Holmes himself have regarded a tarot? He might have dismissed it as a foolish dependence on pieces of card with images upon them – or he might have conceded that they offered clues in the great game of detection. Certainly, he seems to have possessed no degree of personal spirituality, so the idea of Holmes attending church or a seance (other than to uncover what he would have seen as a sham) is unlikely. Doyle himself, however, would almost undoubtedly have found the idea fascinating.

Following a shattering series of deaths in his family, beginning with his wife Louisa in 1906, then his son Kingsley in 1918, his brother Innes, two brothers-in-law and two nephews (all during or shortly after the First World War), Doyle became fascinated with spiritualism and the paranormal (he was a member of the Ghost Club for several years). So caught up was he in the subject of the survival of life after death that he even wrote a novel called *The Land of Mist* (1926), featuring Professor Challenger, in which he debated the possibility at length. A few years earlier he had penned a book called *The Coming of the Faeries* (1921), concerning the strange story of two children who apparently succeeded in photographing actual faeries. Despite later evidence that the photos were faked, no one has succeeded in demonstrating how this was done, and, for Doyle, it was unquestionably a reality.

Doyle's interests in the paranormal and other inexplicable phenomena brought him in contact with the renowned American

escapologist Harry Houdini, and the two men became unlikely friends, until they fell out over what Houdini regarded as fakery and Doyle as truth.

Such interests may seem at variance with the calculating genius of Holmes, but Doyle viewed the mystery of human consciousness as limitless, and his overall view of life was motivated by an excessive curiosity towards all things. The mirror that tarot holds up to humanity would almost certainly have intrigued him.

### Holmes and the Tarot

This ancient device, so mysterious in its origins that Holmes himself might have found it hard to crack, embodies wisdom in a manner that makes it accessible to all. As Edgar W. Smith noted, we have a 'tremendous capacity for wisdom' – and this is central to the operation of the tarot.

Just like Holmes, the tarot can be consulted, referred to, leant upon, in all kinds of situations and for all kinds of reasons. And, in just the same way that clients were helped by Holmes, so we refer to the tarot – either via our own readings or those of experts – to help us solve problems. We rely on the wisdom contained within the cards in the same way that we rely on the wisdom of the first consulting detective to solve the crimes he investigates. What more exact parallel could one wish for than this, between these two – outwardly – separate entities?

With these thoughts in mind, it came as no great surprise that one of the first things we noticed, when we began working on *The Sherlock Holmes Tarot*, was the number of references to cards in the stories. Then, as we set about putting down the meanings of each card, we found that, again and again, these lent themselves to a terminology of detection. After all, is there really so much difference between a detective searching for clues, interpreting the evidence

and reaching an informed conclusion, and the tarot user shuffling the deck, cutting the cards, laying out their own kind of ‘evidence’ and interpreting the clues offered there to find an answer?

Thus, we would like to suggest a new approach to reading with this deck – in which every card offers a clue to the answers you seek, and in which your expertise and skill (backed up by the wisdom of the first consulting detective and his associates) can access the wisdom of the cards, using them as a forensic tool to investigate the mysteries of life.

### *The adventure begins*

So, prepare to follow the adventures of the great detective and apply the wisdom of Sherlock Holmes, allied with the universal strengths of the tarot, to your personal concerns and issues. Enter the doors of 221B Baker Street – perhaps the world’s most famous address! – and meet the great detective himself. Ask your question, then climb aboard a hansom cab (The Chariot) and set off in search of answers, aided by Dr Watson (Strength), the hidden wisdom of Holmes’ brilliant brother Mycroft (The Hermit), and the kindly energy of Mrs Hudson (Temperance). Consult the famed Bradshaw’s Directory (The Wheel of Fortune) or seek your answers among the pages of *The London Times* newspaper (The World).

Enter the gas-lit alleyways of Victorian London, with its shadowy buildings and fog-bound streets, and experience for yourself the world of extraordinary adventures. Draw on the wisdom of the first and only consulting detective’s tarot. Investigate your personal issues, just as Sherlock Holmes sought answers to crimes. Engage with the mysteries and dilemmas of your own life.

Let us begin ...



*REGALIA*

PART TWO

---

# THE GREATER MYSTERY

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~ *The cards and their meanings* ~

*"The game is afoot."*

THE ABBEY GRANGE

*WISDOM*

## About the Cards

Although on the face of it this is a standard tarot, we have chosen to rename the archetypes of the Major Arcana, the Minor Arcana and the court cards to reflect the imagery of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Thus you will find, for example, that the card usually designated as The Magician is here The Great Detective, and features Holmes himself in typical pose, contemplating the brilliant intuitive skills that are every bit as magical and secretive as the magician's tricks. The full list of Major cards is shown below.

### *The Major Arcana*

SHERLOCK HOLMES TAROT	TRADITIONAL TAROT
0 Inspector Lestrade	The Fool
1 The Great Detective	The Magician
2 Irene Adler	The High Priestess
3 The Queen-Empress	The Empress
4 The Prince-Consort	The Emperor
5 The Seven-Per-Cent Solution	The Hierophant
6 Mr & Mrs J. H. Watson	The Lovers
7 The Hansom Cab	The Chariot
8 Dr John H. Watson	Strength
9 Mycroft Holmes	The Hermit
10 Bradshaw's Directory	The Wheel of Fortune
11 The Courts of Justice	Justice
12 The Crooked Man	The Hanged Man
13 The Gallows	Death
14 Mrs Hudson	Temperance
15 Professor Moriarty	The Devil

16	Reichenbach Falls	The Tower
17	The Blue Carbuncle	The Star
18	The Hound of the Baskervilles	The Moon
19	The Magnifying Lens	The Sun
20	The Final Problem	The Last Judgement
21	The London Times	The World

*The Minor Arcana*

The four suits are named after the combined abilities that enable Holmes to solve crimes, and are represented by icons symbolizing each skill.

OBSERVATION	Swords	
EVIDENCE	Wands	
ANALYSIS	Cups	
DEDUCTION	Pentacles	

The court cards are drawn from among the splendid gallery of characters who throng the stories of Arthur Conan Doyle:

## COURT CARDS

Baker Street Irregular	Page
Peeler	Knight
Lady	Queen
Inspector	King

The Pages are represented by the tribe of Baker Street Irregulars, children or youths pulled from the gutters of Victorian Society and put to work on Holmes' behalf in gathering information. The Knights become Peelers, a popular name for London's earliest police force, created by Sir Robert Peel in 1829 (they were also known as 'Bobbies' after Sir Robert – both names are still in use today). The Queens are drawn from among the many women who often appeal to Holmes for help with a variety of troubling situations. And finally, the Kings are represented by the Inspectors, not always as bumbling as the famous Lestrade (The Fool in this deck), but more often than not several steps behind the great detective.

Together, these characters, all drawn from Doyle's stories, act as companions – active principles of the archetypal meanings generated by the deck.

### *Wild Card: The Giant Rat of Sumatra*

In addition to the usual 78 cards, there is an extra 'wild' card in the deck. This is represented by the Giant Rat of Sumatra, from the case that Watson reported in *The Sussex Vampire* as being too horrific to describe. This card can act as a signifier, to represent either the reader themselves or the subject of a question, or as a marker that promotes the choice of specific cards, and which – depending on where it appears – can change the direction of the reading. To find out how this works, see the section on reading with the cards in Part Three (page 134).

## Card Meanings

For each card entry in the book you will find a brief breakdown of the character or nature of the archetype as it appears in the stories and as it applies to traditional tarot meanings. This is followed by two short sections:

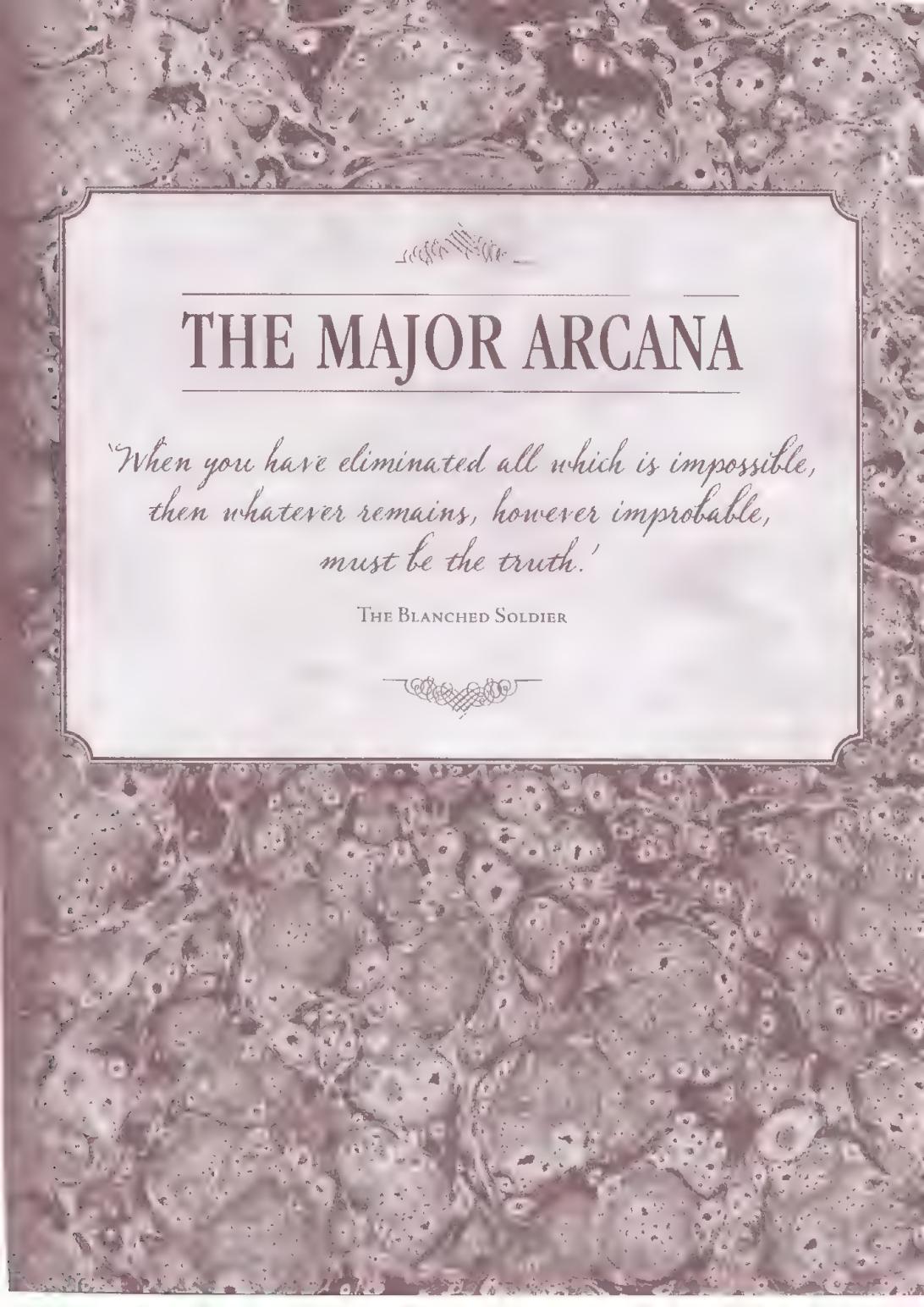
◆ **THE GAME** – which refers to Holmes' famous words "The game is afoot" – summarizes the main meaning of the card.

◆ **THE FOG** lists some of the reversed meanings, suggested by the fog-bound streets of London, in which one may easily take a wrong turning.

Shorter meanings, both for the upright and reversed interpretations, are collected under the heading **Keys**, and you will also find a brief quotation from the Sherlock Holmes canon, displayed as **Holmesian Wisdom**. Not all of these quotes are necessarily wise, but they are representative of the wit and wisdom of the Great Detective. The language of the meanings and interpretation deliberately makes use of terms such as 'the case', 'evidence', 'clues', and 'observations', demonstrating how deeply the work of Sherlock Holmes echoes that of the tarot reader.

And so to the cards ...





*SECRET*

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# THE MAJOR ARCANA

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*'When you have eliminated all which is impossible,  
then whatever remains, however improbable,  
must be the truth.'*

THE BLANCHED SOLDIER



# 0 · INSPECTOR LESTRADE

## The Fool

Inspector Lestrade appears in several of the stories from the canon. Ever eager to catch the criminal, his enthusiasm is infectious, though not always matched by his skill. Luckily, he has Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson on hand to help solve his cases. Holmes called him 'the best of the professionals' – quick and energetic, though lacking imagination. His attitude towards Holmes is frequently patronizing, yet he continues to call in the Great Detective on numerous occasions. Often his efforts are dogged by ignorance, but his steps are constantly guided by Holmes. His forty years with the CID proved that he was a good officer, but his approach to the crimes to which he was assigned was almost always disingenuous. He remained in the shadow of Sherlock Holmes. Here we see Lestrade stepping out into the darkness, lantern in hand, full of enthusiasm for the task ahead, though uncertain where it will lead.

### THE GAME

However you begin, always follow the clues. Enthusiasm and youthful energy increase your detective skills. Take the chance to try out fresh approaches. Trust the evidence. Be prepared to play with new possibilities that present themselves. Your sense of optimism and adventure will see you through. You may lack the spontaneity or curiosity to go deeper, so seeking your heart's desire may not yet be on the agenda. Ignorance and innocence protect you, but try not to push your luck too far.

**Keys**

- CHILDLIKE TRUST • PROTECTION
  - CAREFREE ENTHUSIASM
- THE FOLLY TO BE WISE • OPTIMISM
  - ADVENTURE • SPONTANEITY
  - YOUTHFUL ENERGY
  
- OVERWHELMING PRIDE
  - MAKING MISTAKES
  - NEGLIGENCE • APATHY

**THE FOG**

To behave foolishly endangers both you and your colleagues, though your impulsive nature may lead to new lines of enquiry. Naivety brings you into some dangerous places. You reveal your agenda too easily. Your trust is likely to be abused. Foolhardy bravado beckons you on, sometimes too far. You feel marginalized but don't want to seem foolish. Escaping into childlike states of mind brings you feelings of security. Distrusting the wisdom of others or scorning direct options makes you feel stronger, but may lead you astray.

# 1 · THE GREAT DETECTIVE

## *The Magician*

Holmes is the perfect balance of intellect and action. His great brain holds a library of knowledge, available to him in an instant. Whatever problems face him, he has the insight to deal with them. Like the magician, he can conjure up solutions that others fail to perceive. His determination and absolute concentration on the matter in hand are so finely tuned that he carries all before him. His knowledge of obscure subjects is vast, and gives him the means to ferret out clues and interpret evidence. You also, though you may not possess the intellectual power of Holmes, know and understand far more than you may realize, and, once this deeper wisdom is accessed, will be able to solve problems that currently seem impossible.

### THE GAME

Engage with the mystery in hand. Be aware that you can become a conduit for detection. Concentration and engagement bring connections that will transform your approach to the case. Get down to the practical tasks; be as cunning as you can. Use all your talents and skills to make an impact and innovate in every way. When you grasp your power and follow its creative lead, you feel powerful and dynamic. Accurate perception and reading the patterns clearly can train your will to begin interpreting the evidence. Learn or practise a skill. Be single-minded and determined. Believe in yourself, and you will not be afraid to act decisively; self-confidence aligns you with life's ebb and flow. Make strong connections with what motivates you. Become one with your mind.

Whatever you conceive will manifest around you.

## 1 · THE GREAT DETECTIVE

**Keys**

- IMAGINATIVE INSIGHT
- MASTERY THROUGH DISCIPLINED SKILL
- INITIATIVE • THE IMPULSE TO CREATE
  - PERCEPTION ON ALL LEVELS
- ALIGNMENT WITH LIFE PATTERNS
  - SELF-CONFIDENCE
  
- WEAKNESS OF WILL
- LACK OF DECISIVENESS
- AN IMPOSTER OR LIAR

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'A conjuror gets no credit once he has explained his trick.'*

*'A STUM IN SCARLE'*

**THE FOG**

Difficulties arise from being too clever for your own good. The potential for self-sabotage, deception and manipulation is intrinsic in the fledgling detective. Denying the power that is innately yours causes the flow of information to be disrupted. Over-confidence can lead to megalomania and arrogance to the corruption of power. Use your imaginative insight to feed creativity and compassion. Over-reaching the mark is risky.

Discover the correct focus and concentrate. Self-doubt may cause plans to fall apart.

## 2 · IRENE ADLER

### *The High Priestess*

Irene Adler, a name which means 'eagle', is also referred to as 'The Woman'. She is one of the few people of either sex to defeat Sherlock Holmes. The only story in which she appears is *A Scandal in Bohemia*, but she made such an impression on the readers of the Holmes stories that she has reigned supreme ever since as the only female figure for whom Holmes seems to evince a degree of affection. Born in New Jersey in 1858, Adler followed a career as an opera singer. She is also described as an 'adventuress' – a term usually applied to a courtesan. Holmes remarks that she had 'the face of the most beautiful of women and the mind of the most resolute of men.' In the story, she plays a cat-and-mouse game, and finally beats Holmes – something which clearly impresses him. Various people have been suggested as the origins of the character, including Lillie Langtry and the spy Lola Montez. After successfully defeating Sherlock Holmes she retired, her life protected by her secret knowledge. Her undoubted power brings dynamic energy to every reading in which she appears.

### THE GAME

In her role as High Priestess, she offers a way into the deeper mysteries, but also suggests you should take an opportunity to retire into your own space and consult the interior wisdom that guides you. Knowledge is power. All wisdom is valuable. Every clue has its place in the pattern of the whole.

You may get help and advice from an older woman, but you also give counsel, supporting the understanding of others. Follow what you know is right for you. Look to your dreams for indications of the way forward.

**Keys**

- ESOTERIC KNOWLEDGE
- ENLIGHTENMENT • INSPIRATION
- THE ABILITY TO IMPART INSTRUCTION
- WISDOM • COUNSEL • LEARNING
  
- SELFISHNESS • INTRIGUE
- MISJUDGEMENT • LAZINESS

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*Women are naturally secretive, and they like to do their own secreting!*

A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA

## THE FOG

*Ignoring your intuition betrays your knowledge and cramps your style. Compromised values close off ways to you that could lead to revelation. Disrespecting the wisdom you possess blocks your true path. Deliberate secrecy obscures the evidence. Easily captivated by signs and symbols, you may lose touch with the common-sense basis of the enquiry. Working from shallow or superficial knowledge leaves you open, and secrets that you would rather keep to yourself may be revealed.*

## 3 · THE QUEEN-EMPERESS

### *The Empress*

Queen Victoria (1819–1901) was a force to be reckoned with. More than almost any sovereign before or since, with the possible exception of Elizabeth I, she influenced an age which is evermore associated with her. Holmes admired her enough – or was sufficiently patriotic – to adorn one of the walls of his rooms with the sign 'VR' (*Victoria Regina*) picked out in bullet holes! Having recovered a sensitive set of plans stolen by enemy agents in *The Bruce-Partington Plans*, he received an emerald tie pin in gratitude from 'a certain gracious lady', and there are hints elsewhere that he was more than once of service to the crown. According to the dates given by Watson in his accounts of his friend's activities, Holmes lived most of his life in the reign of Victoria. As the Empress of India, she represents all of the regal power and abundance associated with the tarot Empress, and as the mother of nine children she is also an excellent example of fertility and motherhood.

### THE GAME

Keeping watch for danger to others. Concentration on things essential to the case. Abundance and fertility support your plans. You appreciate beauty after a phase of being surrounded by the mundane, the plain or the unadorned. Share your resources generously, but remember that spending everything to create a good impression can be time-consuming and may confuse the issue. Be careful that you are not too demanding. Try to foster creativity in yourself and others but don't let your maternal love become smothering.  
Look out for signs and clues.

**Keys**

- ENERGY IN CREATIVE GROWTH
- MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL WEALTH
- FULFILMENT • STRENGTH
- ABUNDANCE • FERTILITY
- MOTHERHOOD • HEALTH • HARMONY
  
- VANITY
- ANXIETY • LETHARGY

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*... all the queen's horses  
and all the queen's men  
cannot avail in  
this matter.*

*The Bruce-Parrington Plan*

**THE FOG**

You can't see the wood for the trees, and may be out of phase with nature and natural rhythms. The urge to take immediate action circumscribes your resources. An inability to share or a failure to respond when help is offered. Superficial attractions lure you in. Extravagance or too many riches tends to waste your creative abilities. Thwarted passion or abuse of the feminine diminishes your self-image. Frustrated creativity turns you inwards. Be wary of over-indulgence or of letting yourself go. Be careful.

## 4 · THE PRINCE-CONSORT

### *The Emperor*

Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (1819–1861) was the consort of Queen Victoria, whom he married when they both turned twenty. The pair became devoted to each other, and Albert's unexpected death in 1861, at the age of forty-two, so affected the Queen that she remained in mourning for the rest of her life. Despite some initial distrust of a German consort, Albert won the trust of the British people and proved to be a tireless worker and an enthusiastic innovator. His progressive and liberal approach led to reforms in university education, welfare, royal finances and slavery. Both he and Victoria were fascinated with the Arthurian legends and saw themselves as a modern incarnation of Arthur and Guinevere. Albert's highly developed sense of duty and responsibility, along with his willpower and organizational skills, make him a perfect representative of the Emperor.

### THE GAME

*Helping to turn abstract ideas into reality, you become a leader in the field of detection. Masculinity, put to good use through leadership and fatherly wisdom. Your ability to perceive the truth creates a secure environment and offers protection to others. Fatherly love strengthens the workplace, the family or the environment. Authority and energy help organized force to move forward. Authenticity results when you take up the challenge. You may find yourself holding power or securing boundaries for the benefit of all rather than just serving yourself. Taking a more realistic attitude to life encourages a fairer structure in an organization, but always check that aspects of your leadership do not become domineering.*



### Keys

- LEADERSHIP • FATHERHOOD
- AUTHORITATIVE ENERGY
- THE WIELDING OF POWER FOR GOOD
- WILLPOWER • ORGANIZATION
- COURAGE • RESPONSIBLE LOVE
- DYNAMISM
  
- STUBBORNNESS
- MISUSE OF POWER • FAILURE
- ABDUCTION AND ABANDONMENT

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'Now having secured  
the future, we can afford  
to be more lenient  
with the past.'*

THE PRIORY SCHOOL

### THE FOG

Arrogance or perfectionism that is capable of destroying an enterprise. An immature approach weakens your authority and may lead to disorganization. The inability to work things out merely postpones coming to terms with the issue for another time. Indecisiveness means others have to do your work for you. If you defer control, you leave the field open to others. Failure to maintain good boundaries may diminish your self-image.

## 5 · THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION

### *The Hierophant*

Holmes' use of the drug cocaine, generally in a seven-per-cent solution, has always been controversial. It was mostly at times of hiatus between cases that the great detective indulged in the habit, drawing upon the exhilarating effect of the drug (followed, inevitably, by depression) to stimulate his mind. Watson often evinces his disapproval of the habit, and calls Holmes a 'self-poisoner' in *The Five Orange Pips*. Watson seems to have weaned Holmes of the habit for a number of years, but it is evident that in times of extreme pressure Holmes would resort again to the drug. Holmes himself admits that the long-term effects of the drug are debilitating, but is evidently unable to forswear it entirely. While we in no way condone the use of such stimulants, the effect of the drug upon Holmes is a perfect metaphor for the opening of the consciousness to deeper and inner levels offered by the Hierophant.

### THE GAME

A giver of skilful insight who inspires others, especially those in need of practical wisdom. A preserver of traditional ways. An urge to rebel.

By transforming the mundane into the mystical, you suggest new ways to live. The introduction to new methods frees up your vision. Mentoring the young or inexperienced, you bring things into focus for them. Follow your own path and seek the initiation of wisdom.

Be careful of seeming too self-important. Don't get bogged down in following procedures. Let your true light shine out.

Uncover the hidden clues and show them to others.

**Keys**

- REVELATION • INSPIRATION
- INSIGHT • TRADITION
- PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE
- INITIATION • ADVICE OR COUNSEL
- TRANSFORMATION OF THE MUNDANE  
INTO THE SPIRITUAL

**RIGIDITY**

- GIVING AWAY TOO MUCH
- DEPENDING ON INSTITUTIONAL WAYS

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*for me there  
still remains the  
cocaine bottle:*

*The SIGN OF FOUR*

## THE FOG

Holding fixed or dogmatic views limits your ability to see clearly. Abiding by narrow rules of investigation may prevent you from inspiring others. Doing things by rote. Traditional methods become bound by red tape. Imbuing others with your own feelings of guilt. Causing friction between the generations. Be careful not to become enthralled by popular opinion. Unprincipled behaviour leads to ostracism. Flouting the conventions can bring freedom, but also self-doubt. Projecting your own ideas upon others.

## 6 · MR & MRS J. H. WATSON

### *The Lovers*

There are hints of a previous marriage before Watson encounters Mary Morstan, Holmes' client in *The Sign of Four*. Watson clearly admires her from the start, and in due course they marry. One suspects that there is a certain jealousy on the part of Holmes towards the woman who steals Watson away, but the two are evidently deeply in love, and remain so until Mary's untimely death a few years later. It is clear that Watson derives strength and happiness from his relationship, which perhaps offered a powerful contrast to his friendship with the great detective. A hint in the story of *The Blanched Soldier* has led some commentators to believe that Watson may have married for a third time, but this is not conclusive. Certainly the number of ordinary human relationships described in the Sherlock Holmes stories that are not doomed or overshadowed by criminality are few and far between, making the Watsons the best possible representatives for the Lovers in the tarot.

### THE GAME

*The evidence supports the belief that love is in the air. The marriage of true minds and hearts or a deep bond of friendship. Unions, mergers, contracts and agreements have a particular magic.*

*Emotional ties develop into full-blown relationships. Making a choice or important decision. The way you explore or fail to register loyalty and commitment defines your relationships. Issues of trust may need to be renegotiated. Ambivalent relationships or infatuation may need clarification. Determine your own values before merging with those of another.*

**Keys**

- MARRIAGE OF MINDS AND HEARTS
- LOVE (SEXUAL AND SPIRITUAL)
- THE VISION OF INNER BEAUTY
- EMOTIONAL TIES • TRUST
- PLATONIC FRIENDSHIP
- FULFILMENT OF DESIRE
  
- POOR CHOICES • BROKEN PROMISES
- DISILLUSIONMENT • IMMATURITY

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'She is the daintiest  
thing under a bonnet  
on this planet.'*

A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA

## THE FOG

Unreliable partnerships or betrayal by friends. You are likely to engage in a struggle for dominance. Unrequited love may dominate your life. Misunderstandings between close friends or partners. Divergence of approach may harm a relationship. Staying true to yourself will take you through this. Broken contracts. Separation or divorce. Jealousy, envy or possessiveness limits the scope of a relationship. Poor or confused choices endanger stability. You lose sight of the goal.

## 7 · THE HANSOM CAB

### *The Chariot*

The hansom cab, designed and patented by J. A. Hansom (1803–1882), is something of an icon of the Victorian era. A two-wheeled, single-horse carriage, it held two people plus the driver, who sat up behind the body of the vehicle. Many Londoners in the Holmesian era carried a whistle that they would use to call the nearest cab, and both Holmes and Watson are described as whistling to summon a hansom. As a mode of transport, it was unequalled in the time before motorized vehicles. Hansoms could travel some distance and weave their way swiftly through the maze of London streets, and they thus feature many times in the adventures of the great detective and his assistant. As a symbol of the Chariot, which epitomizes forward motion and the harnessing of energies, nothing could better equate to this powerful tarot archetype.

### THE GAME

*Purpose and the determination to move ahead in the case. Mastery of skill or ability brings a successful outcome to the investigation. Self-confidence and self-discipline enable the harnessing of abilities. Navigating life with a clear sense of direction. Determination and courage ensure that you arrive at a solution to the problem before others. You make a great leap forward with your hands on the reins. Success and fame are the rewards of achievement, so be prepared to handle them. Your appearance may be a mask to hide your true worth – or a disguise to help achieve your goals.*

7 · THE HANSOM CAB

**Keys**

- HARNESSING OF ABILITIES TOWARDS A GREAT PURPOSE
- VICTORY • SELF-CONFIDENCE
- SELF-DISCIPLINE • TESTS AND TRIALS
  - ACHIEVEMENT • TRAVEL
  - DETERMINATION • COURAGE
- QUARRELS • DISPUTES
- AN ACCIDENT • BAD NEWS

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*In the morning  
you will send for a  
hansom, desiring ... to take  
neither the first nor  
the second.*

THE FINAL PROBLEM

**THE FOG**

Plans come unstuck and clues prove to be false leads. Familiar paths lead to different places. Things cease to work properly. Over-confidence is deflated by failure. Fears derail you. Rash judgements change the way you approach the case. Journeys are delayed or cancelled. Letting anger get the better of you diverts you from the truth. Overshadowed or threatened by the success of others, you may attempt to steal power to get to the truth. Self-doubt may plague your sense of worth and bring confusion to your activities.

# 8 · DR JOHN H. WATSON

*Strength*

As is often the case with narrators, we know far less about Watson than we do of his famous friend – and yet, anyone who has read or studied the Holmes stories knows Watson as well as they know the great detective. Until recently, Watson has been portrayed as something of a bumbler, the straight man to Holmes' dazzling skill and repartee. But most people seem inadequate next to Holmes, and Watson is shown to be of above average intelligence. He was also an able-bodied assistant who could throw a punch and fire a pistol when required. Taking his degree in medicine in 1878, we can assume he must have been born in the 1850s. After a childhood spent in Australia, he went to school in England and became a surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. He joined the Army Medical Department during the Second Afghan War (1878–80) and was invalided out after he received a serious wound. He met Holmes in 1881, and the pair continued their association for the next twenty-three years. As a symbol of strength, his determined attitude makes him an ideal representative of this card.

## THE GAME

*The strength to keep going when the problem appears to have no solution.*

*The eagerness of the detective to attack the problem. The strength of will which enables you to transcend limits. You are resourceful, but may need to tame the desire to meet opposition in a combative way. Strength held in check remains a reserve which you can tap into. You should always be ready to turn to a powerful friend or guide who can help you face challenges without fear.*

**Keys**

- SELF-DISCIPLINE • ENDURING STRENGTH • BALANCED EXERCISE OF ONE'S ABILITIES • HEALTH OF MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT • MORAL CERTITUDE
- WITHOUT SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS
- COURAGE TO ACCEPT CHALLENGES
- FORTITUDE
  
- REVERSAL OF FORTUNE
- DELAY AND STASIS

**THE FOG**

Weakness, an inability to grasp the problem or to find the energy necessary to combat the situation. An inability to master your fears. The urge to fight your way through a seemingly impenetrable situation. Feeding your fears gives them strength over you; acknowledging your limitations helps you survive. Learn to delegate or ask for help.

# 9 · MYCROFT HOLMES

## The Hermit

Mycroft Holmes, the great detective's elder brother, is a figure of mystery, considered by Holmes himself to have a mind of ever greater genius than his own. He is a shadowy figure of power within the British government; indeed, as Holmes remarks to Watson, there are times when 'he is the government.' He seems to have operated as an advisor on virtually every aspect of political activity, using his brilliant skills in deductive reasoning and clinical observation to focus on several aspects of knowledge at the same time. Holmes occasionally calls upon him for help with particularly difficult cases. Yet Mycroft seldom leaves the haven of the Diogenes Club, and is apparently so completely without ambition 'that he would rather be considered wrong than take the trouble to prove himself right,' as noted in *The Bruce-Partington Plans*. Like the Hermit, he brings light to the outer world without leaving his cell, and opens the way for others who seek justice or wisdom.

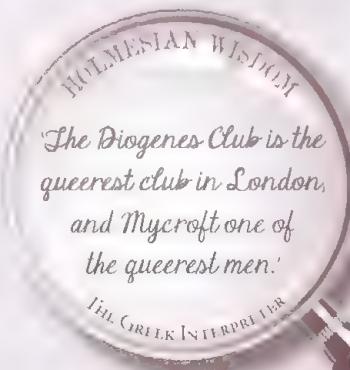
### THE GAME

*The search for illumination and wisdom to solve the case. A mentor or role model awaits your discovery. A time for reassessment and inner contemplation. Originality and inventiveness give you an edge in every case you accept. As plans mature, allow for a period of stillness and thought in which answers can be uncovered. Take the advice of an older or wiser person. Listening to a colleague can provide powerful solutions. Prudent reflection can prevent you from making a bad choice or taking the wrong road.*

9 · MYCROFT HOLMES

**Keys**

- GUIDANCE • SPIRITUAL TRUTH
- ILLUMINATION • WISDOM
- WISE COUNSEL • INTROSPECTION
- A NECESSARY SPACE FOR REASSESSMENT
- Maturity
  
- SELF-INFILCTED ISOLATION
- FEAR • DISGUISE
- SULLEN SILENCE

**THE FOG**

The guidance you seek may come from misleading sources. Operating without a guide or compass causes you to lose focus. You are haunted by the fear of being alone or unwanted. The pursuit of perfection leads you to hesitate. Getting back into the game after a period of withdrawal. Retreating into a private world. Getting lost in introspective reasoning. Claiming a skill you don't really possess. Resist the temptation to act in a mature way. Failing to listen to your inner certainty leads to false clues.

## 10 · BRADSHAW'S DIRECTORY

### *The Wheel of Fortune*

The most famous directory of train times in the world, the Bradshaw's Railway Guide was devised by the English cartographer, printer and publisher George Bradshaw (1801–1853). As the railway network grew in complexity, with some 150 companies and a huge number of tracks criss-crossing the country, the necessity for a unified timetable became paramount. Bradshaw compiled and published his guide in 1839. Two years later he began to issue it on a monthly basis, and within the next year the book, with its familiar yellow wrapper, became synonymous with its publisher. The original eight-page edition grew to thirty-two pages by 1845, and to over nine hundred by 1898. Holmes made frequent use of the guide to enable him to travel to various points in the country with considerable reliability. As a metaphor for the Wheel of Fortune, it offers a spectacular variety of possible paths to take, each one leading to a different outcome.

#### THE GAME

You make your own luck. Fortune and destiny, fateful encounters and experiences await you. Giving and receiving gifts. The cyclic nature of life moves you forward. The results of your actions change the pattern of your life. Ideas, projects or relationships move you onward. Taking a proffered chance means you will not suffer regret.

Things approaching you now may surprise you. Be adaptable or flexible at all times; consider every aspect of the evidence.

Neglected opportunities may come back to haunt you.

Being fatalistic keeps the wheel turning.

10 - BRADSHAW'S DIRECTORY

**Keys**

- CYCLIC CHANGE • EVOLUTION
- SEQUENTIAL PATTERNS WHICH RESULT FROM ANY ACTION
- ADAPTATION • INCARNATION OR MANIFESTATION OF A PROJECT
  
- INCREASE • BAD SPECULATION
- NEGLIGENCE

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*The vocabulary of Bradshaw is nervous and terse, but limited.*

THE VALLEY OF FEAR

## THE FOG

Unpredictable events may prevent you from uncovering the clues. You experience a run of bad luck that causes you to keep missing opportunities. You may feel as though you're stuck on a treadmill. Sudden mood swings make it hard to get a clear perspective of the issue. Speculation or gambling causes you to lose focus. Recurrent events follow you if you fail to attend to them. You blame your own poor luck rather than acknowledging circumstances that affect your progress.

# 11 · THE COURTS of JUSTICE



Built on the site of the infamous Newgate Prison in London, the Courts of Justice, commonly known as the 'Old Bailey' after the street on which the building stands, were several times destroyed and rebuilt. In the Holmesian era, it was a small courthouse adjacent to Newgate. More than 100,000 criminal cases took place in the Old Bailey from 1674 to 1834. The bronze statue of Lady Justice (named after the Roman goddess Justitia), created by the sculptor F. W. Pomeroy, looks out over London with a calm sternness from the dome of the building. She holds a sword in her right hand and the scales of justice in her left, and perfectly illustrates the meaning of the tarot image. The statue is widely believed to show her wearing a blindfold, an ancient tradition implying impartiality; however, the statue on the Old Bailey is not in fact blindfolded, because Justitia's womanly character guarantees impartiality! Holmes himself seems to have had no great faith in the justice system of the time, but despite this deemed it essentially fair.

## THE GAME

*Justice, truth and honesty are your friends. Give or receive fair good measure. Be impartial rather than taking sides. Weigh the evidence carefully. Your integrity is vindicated and your case upheld. Your balanced attitudes enable equitable agreements. You may be called upon to become a mediator between parties. Measuring up to the situation or perceiving your true motives is essential. You may find yourself seeking justice for yourself or another. A legal case requires you to defend your methods.*

## 11 · THE COURTS OF JUSTICE

**Keys**

- JUSTICE • EQUITY • RIGHTEFUL RULE
- VINDICATION OF INTEGRITY
- PERCEPTION OF MOTIVES
- FAIR EXCHANGE
- HONEST RELATIONSHIPS
- GOOD MEASURE
- BALANCED REACTION
  
- BIGOTRY • BIAS • INTOLERANCE
- ABUSE OF THE LAW

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*The English law is in  
the main a just law.*

THE VALLEY OF FEAR

## THE FOG

Self-justification brings a lack of understanding. Legal difficulties or false accusation mean you must clear your name. The rule of law is overset. Negotiations break down. You may have to deal with corrupt individuals or institutions. Propaganda or prejudice cloud the case. Unfairness or injustice persists until an advocate or mediator is appointed. The need to get even can blind you to the truth. Rational decisions may require the abandonment of mercy.

## 12 · THE CROOKED MAN

### *The Hanged Man*

This character appears in *The Adventure of the Crooked Man*. Holmes investigates the sudden death of Colonel James Barclay, whose wife has been blamed for the murder. Holmes shows that he actually died of a stroke when faced by the Crooked Man himself – Henry Wood, a former soldier betrayed by Barclay to the mutineers during the Indian Mutiny of 1857. Held captive and tortured for several years, he eventually escaped and returned to England to confront his betrayer. Wood had become a conjurer in the intervening time and used a mongoose in his act. The mysterious footprints left by this creature helped Holmes discover the truth. The Hanged Man in the tarot is often considered to be a memory of an actual miscreant, some say one of the Renaissance Sforza family, who was hung upside down from the battlements of a castle. The underlying meaning has always been reversals or abrupt changes in direction, and the image of the betrayed and tortured soldier, whose appearance brings death to his enemy, seemed to fit very well with the imagery of the card.

### THE GAME

Your visionary skills, which enable you to find the necessary clues to the puzzle, may be tested and you may have to pay a high price for commitment to your approach. If you allow less important indicators to be stripped away, the real answer appears. Review your options and consider other ways of reaching your goal. Insight is gained through trust, and even misdirection can bring answers. Getting caught up in the suspicions of others weaves a web in which you may be trapped. Sitting on the fence is to no avail; only total commitment to the evidence will bring answers.

12 · THE CROOKED MAN

**Keys**

- WISDOM GAINED THROUGH HARDSHIP AND EXPERIENCE
- SPIRITUAL INSIGHT
- CHANGING ONE'S LIFE
- INTERIOR HEALING
- MEDITATION • PURIFICATION
- THE STRIPPING AWAY OF INESSSENTIALS
  
- SELF-SACRIFICE
- IDEALISM • REPENTANCE
- SUBMISSION TO DUTY

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'It was a wonder the  
man lived, seeing how  
twisted he was ...'*

THE CROOKED MAN

**THE FOG**

You may find yourself required to change direction, but older agendas must be dealt with first. The trail grows cold and you are stuck or waiting for things to move on. Larger forces guide small events. You may ignore, or be neglecting, your duty. Following the opinions of others restricts your ability to act. Explore the details before you try to move.

# 13 · THE GALLOWS

## *Death*

*D*eath by hanging has been a preferred method of execution since the Middle Ages. Permanent gallows were erected at key places – sometimes a crossroads, or a high place visible for some distance. The most famous gallows in Britain formally stood at Tyburn in London, and a number of renowned hangmen served there over the years. The most well known of these, in Holmes' time, was William Calcraft (1800–1879). He was the longest serving holder of the office and, between 1829 and 1874, is believed to have executed over 500 people. The post became much sought after in the mid nineteenth century – hangmen were paid a fee for each execution they carried out – and remained so, until capital punishment was abolished in 1964. This particular vision of the traditional tarot Death card seems appropriate, even though the card seldom refers to actual death but is more often to do with sudden changes of fortune or direction. In the world of the great detective, it was the ultimate deterrent.

### THE GAME

Abrupt and unsettling change. The breaking of old patterns. A new turn in the path. Transformation and the overturning of outworn or stale ideas or situations. You may need to take ruthless action; try to remain compassionate. Accept the inevitable and welcome new evidence. If you have a tendency to hang onto ideas rather than letting go of what is no longer useful, look around for new clues. Experiment with eliminating outworn attitudes. Health issues may emerge if you consistently ignore your vocation.

**Keys**

- ELIMINATION OF OUTWORN IDEAS, STALE RELATIONSHIPS AND STATIC CUSTOMS • FALLOWNESS
- DISRUPTION OF OLD PATTERNS
  - RENEWAL • RUTHLESS YET COMPASSIONATE ACTION
- LETHARGY • STAGNATION
  - INMOBILITY • SLEEP

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*Many a man has been  
wrongfully hanged . . .*

*The Boscombe Valley Mystery*

## THE FOG

As for Sherlock Holmes, being idle challenges you. You may try to force your way through a door as it closes. Change is frustrating and seems to take you nowhere. Hanging on brings sorrow. Ominous and threatening signs cause fears to arise. The final solution should not be put off. Inertia can set in if you remain unoccupied. Shoring up appearances despite suffering changes nothing. Struggles are over and done with. You may experience a near-death experience or a miraculous escape.

## 14 • MRS HUDSON

*Temperance*

The landlady of 221B Baker Street is almost as famous as her two most celebrated lodgers. She is never really described in the stories, though her 'stately tread' suggests she was of an age and perhaps stout in person. She worshipped Holmes and was clearly in awe of him, even while frequently chiding him in a motherly fashion for his unfortunate habits, his untidiness and the unsocial hours he kept. Yet she stood by him through his years as a consulting detective, offering breakfast and other refreshments, acting as a guardian of the threshold to all of Holmes' clients as well as the Baker Street Irregulars, whom she found most annoying. When Holmes returned from his period of hiding after his supposed death at the Reichenbach Falls, she was driven to hysterics by the shock of discovering him to be alive. Her steady determination, motherly exterior and heart of gold make her a perfect icon for the gravity and balance inherent in the tarot card of Temperance.

## THE GAME

*Regeneration. A chance to harness a variety of conflicting evidence enables you to moderate your line of reasoning. Seek out solutions that lead to a more balanced resolution. The opportunity to reconcile extreme positions enables you to combine reason and deduction and strengthens your position. By mediation or arbitration, you create a united front. Your flow of intuitive reasoning changes as you merge different ideas. This requires an ability to respect sometimes conflicting views and values. Seek out the point of balance.*



### Keys

- TEMPERING OUTER CIRCUMSTANCE THROUGH INNER VALUES • FUSION
- REGENERATION • RECOMBINATION OF RESOURCES OR POTENTIALS
- BLENDING OR MERGING WITH A NEW IDEA • CORRECT OR INCORRECT BALANCING OF THE PERSONALITY
  
- CONFLICT OF INTEREST
- MOOD SWINGS
- IMPATIENCE • FRUSTRATION



## THE FOG

A conflict of interests or a clash between opposites. Anger encourages misunderstandings between people. Failure to go with the flow. The case breaks down and is pushed out of balance by anger and greed. You become enmeshed in other people's affairs. Your insights antagonize others and create conflict. Living without harmony leaves you with few friends.

Self-indulgence or addictive behaviour puts your physical, mental and spiritual health out of balance.

# 15 · PROFESSOR MORIARTY

## *The Devil*

In the canon of Sherlock Holmes stories, Professor James Moriarty is synonymous with evil. He is not only Holmes' arch enemy but also his nemesis, who succeeds in 'killing' the great detective – though, of course, he comes back from the dead after a hiatus of three years. Holmes sums up Moriarty's career as follows: 'He is a man of good birth and excellent education, endowed by nature with a phenomenal mathematical faculty ... [He] had, to all appearances, a most brilliant career before him. But the man had hereditary tendencies of the most diabolical kind. A criminal strain in his blood ... which was increased and rendered infinitely more dangerous by his extraordinary mental powers.' It is evident, from the way in which Holmes later speaks of his enemy, that he admired Moriarty, for all his demonic qualities, and that in some ways he missed the ongoing matching of brain against brain. As a representative of the Devil, there could be no other character from the stories that so exactly fits the adversarial and challenging qualities of this card.

### THE GAME

Challenges surround you on every side. Obsession comes close to overthrowing your will. When obsession takes up residence, you give away power. Fatal attraction saps your strength. Inflexibility leads to stagnation, imprisonment or bondage. You are likely to be ruled by your demons. Addictive behaviour is fuelled by the neglect of creative possibilities and the need to be part of the crowd. Obstacles can appear huge and seem overwhelming even when they're not. Past traumas dictate your response to a crisis.

15 · PROFESSOR MORIARTY

**Keys**

- CHALLENGE • IGNORANCE
- SELF LIMITATION • INFLEXIBILITY
- OBSTACLES WHICH MUST BE OVERCOME
- UNCONSCIOUS FEARS REALIZED
- STAGNATION • INCISIVE CHANGE
- CREATIVE POSSIBILITIES
  
- FATALISM • WEAKNESS
- BONDAGE • DISEASE

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*When you have ... all the powers of darkness at [your] back, there are infinite possibilities.*

THE VALLEY OF FEAR

**THE FOG**

The overthrow of illusions may lead to extremes of behaviour. Remember that laughter deflates pomosity. Liberation from stale ideas is always possible. Recovering your humanity brings reality to the case. You find it hard to avoid temptation. By checking motivation, your path becomes clearer as new insights appear. Free yourself from doubts and fears through spontaneity and humour.

## 16 · REICHENBACH FALLS

### *The Tower*

The final confrontation which ends the long-fought contest between Sherlock Holmes and his arch enemy James Moriarty is justly one of the most famous episodes in the canon of stories. The struggle between the two men takes place at Reichenbach Falls in Central Switzerland, at a tributary of the river Aar. The lower falls are approximately ten minutes' walk from Meiringen, with the higher falls another fifteen minutes on from there. A narrow footpath leads to a bridge overlooking the falls, and it was here, in this spectacular setting, that Holmes and Moriarty met, fought and fell – Moriarty to his death, Holmes to a hidden ledge that saved his life. He later tells Watson that, even as he fell, he considered that reports of his death would cause unsuspecting criminals to come out of hiding. It is this very reason that causes Holmes to then vanish from sight for three years.

### THE GAME

Sudden and unexpected change. A reversal of energies. Falling into the depths. You may be lucky to anticipate disaster, but be careful, as it can strike as fast as lightning. The transformation of hopes and plans can cleanse the way. Cultivate humility in the face of great obstacles. Loss of the security of routine brings new understanding in the case. Painful self-awareness or sudden news may leave you petrified. Whatever you have been using to shore yourself up falls away, and no amount of effort will prevent it. Reputations may be tarnished and masks come down.

**Keys**

- REVERSAL OF ENERGIES • HUMILITY
- SHOCKING CHANGE • LIBERATION FROM OUTWORN CONCEPTS
- THE REALIZATION OF LIMITATIONS
  - NATURAL FORCES AT WORK
- ILLNESS WHICH EXPELS POISONS FROM THE BODY • SELF-AWARENESS
  
- OPPRESSION • ENFORCED EXILE
- PERSECUTION • PUNISHMENT

HOLMESIAN WISDOM  
*If all the world  
 was convinced that I was  
 dead ... these men ... would  
 soon lay themselves open,  
 and sooner or later I  
 could destroy them.*

THE EMPTY HOUSE

**THE FOG**

Looking into the depths. Situations drag on without reason. A sense of being under a cloud. No relief is in sight. Denying what needs attention or continuing to turn a blind eye to things. Disaster is narrowly averted. A period of upheaval without rest or relief. Setbacks intensify. A crisis threatens. Accepting changes, you re-examine the evidence to discover a new direction.

# 17 · THE BLUE CARBUNCLE

## *The Star*

The normal colour of a carbuncle is a deep red, and blue carbuncles are unknown. However, in the story that bears its name, the Countess of Morcar possessed one which was, of course, priceless. It was stolen and a reward of £1,000 offered for its recovery – a staggering sum for the time. The story of the theft, by one James Ryder, follows the strange passage of the gem through a line of other receivers, until the stolen item finally ends up in the crop of a large Christmas goose. There are mocking echoes of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* in the final disclosure of the great stone. It is also one of the notable times when Holmes allows the villain, who seems to have acted more on impulse than anything else, to escape. After all, as he says, it is not his job to do the work of the police. The story is a wonderful exploration not only of Holmes' skill in deduction (he works out the whole story from a hat which comes into his possession) but also of the coincidences which take place within our lives. The mixture of good and bad luck, with Holmes' almost preternatural ability to see what happened, makes it a fine example of the qualities associated with the Star in the tarot.

### THE GAME

Hope and inspiration encourage healing. Answers improve the situation. Your expectations and aspirations bring you greater confidence. Popular consciousness supports a new vision in which everyone can share. Emotional expansiveness enables you to enjoy a period of refreshment. Things go with ease and grace. With faith in the future, you can see your way. Seek out a place of sanctuary, and allow time for recovery.

## 17 · THE BLUE CARBUNCLE

**Keys**

- HOPE • EXPECTATION • PROPHECY
- HEALING • REBIRTH
- GIFTS OF LIGHT • INSPIRATION
- GOOD LUCK • IDEALISM • DESTINY
  
- DISAPPOINTMENT • PESSIMISM
- BAD LUCK • STUBBORNNESS
- HOPELESSNESS • INSTABILITY

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'Work is the best  
antidote to sorrow...'*

THE EMPTY HOUSE

## THE FOG

Pessimism dominates your life. You are too stubborn to see the error of your ways. You look for omens of a change for the better and yet fail to welcome them. By refusing to look, you miss the vital clue. Inspiration has dried up and needs refreshment. Conditions are too unstable to make headway. You repress your emotions in response to attack or ingratitude. You are unable to find the right guidance. Following every sign can lead to confusion. Problems with your self-image continue to dog your path.

# 18 · THE HOUND of the BASKERVILLES

## *The Moon*

The Hound of the Baskervilles remains the best known of all the Sherlock Holmes stories. It is a stark tale that borders on the supernatural, telling of the curse that overshadows the Baskerville family in the form of a black 'hell-hound' with glowing eyes that haunts the region of Dartmoor. It takes the life of Sir Charles Baskerville and threatens that of his son, Henry. The actual Baskerville family originated in Wales rather than Devon, but Conan Doyle most likely got the idea for his story after a visit to Dartmoor. Doyle himself recorded a research visit there, investigating Fox Tor Mires and Grimspound, which in the story becomes Grimpden Mire. Legends of hell-hounds haunting Dartmoor are plentiful and centre around the so-called 'Wish Hounds' which roamed the moor in a ferocious pack, the 'Wish Man' once being a popular name for the Devil. The story as we have it is a very good model for the traditional meaning of the Moon card, which includes delusion, madness and instability.

### THE GAME

Dreams and visions are enhanced by observation. Misreadings may stalk you. You feel guided by unknown forces. Seek validation for your intuitions by investigating the information. This is a time to indulge your theories creatively. The seasonal round and the tides of time point you towards new directions and intuitions. Being under the influence of a strong compulsion or powerful emotion may bring confusion. You can't see the way forward.

A sense of bewilderment makes you proceed with care. Fluctuations of mood can cloud your judgement and lead you to false conclusions.

**Keys**

- TIDAL CHANGE • TWILIGHT
- DECEPTION • PERIOD OF INCREASE
  - HIDDEN INFLUENCES
- ESOTERIC FORCES • DELUSION
- UNCONSCIOUS URGES • DREAMS
- ERROR • LIES • PERIOD OF DECLINE
  
- FLUCTUATION • INSTABILITY
- FRAUD • FANTASTIC IDEAS

**THE FOG**

Hidden dangers lie ahead. You may feel you are being stalked. You could be in the grip of unfounded rumours. You may be prone to act irrationally. Delusions and fears surround you, holding you in thrall. You feel exhausted on every level and welcome alternative views. You cling to irrational ideas and thoughts. Acting without forethought can lead you into danger.

## 19 · THE MAGNIFYING LENS

### *The Sun*

The magnifying lens – that simple convex piece of glass which magnifies an object when held over it – is perhaps one of the most widely recognized images associated with the detective. Holmes' own magnifying lens is seldom far from his hands. He uses it extensively throughout the stories and, in *A Scandal in Bohemia*, Watson remarks that a crack in one of these high-powered lenses would be equally as disturbing to Holmes as the appearance of a strong emotion within himself. In an era before forensic science was established, being able to examine the details of fibre, footprints, hidden writing on a sheet of paper, was all important. Mycroft Holmes once declared that, unlike his brother, he did not spend much of his time lying face down on the ground with a lens to his eye! The traditional meaning of the Sun card in tarot has everything to do with focus, clear sight and enlightenment, thus making the lens an ideal representative of this card.

### THE GAME

*The fog clears as the sun breaks through. You find your focus. Clarity informs both work and life. Health and energy abound. Your true vocation is realized at last. You experience joy, freedom or enthusiasm. Optimism dominates your every move. Recovery after illness brings the return of delight. You give no room to doubt or fear. Doing things naturally brings satisfaction. Speaking and acting directly opens the way ahead. A sense of enlightenment and wholeness expands your views. You enjoy recreation or holiday. There is a sense of accomplishment in all that you attempt.*

19 · THE MAGNIFYING LENS

**Keys**

- CLARITY OF VISION • ENTHUSIASM
- WARMTH • PURITY • A LOVING HEART
- JOY • FREEDOM • ENLIGHTENMENT
  - WHOLESOME • HEALTH
- INTOLERANCE OF SHADOWS IN ANY ASPECT OF LIFE • DIRECTNESS
  
- BROKEN FUTURES
- DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR
- PRIDE • VANITY

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'Detection is, or ought to be, an exact science ...'*

THE SIGN OF FOUR

**THE FOG**

The good fortune of others casts a shadow. A heavy schedule obscures your happiness. Exhaustion clouds your life. You long to have your innocence restored or to enjoy things with simplicity. You expect something for nothing, which gets in the way of good fortune. Your intolerance or sense of rightness is unjustified. Confidence wanes and enthusiasm leaves you. You are overshadowed by another, or cast your own shadow over them.

*Complex solutions outshine simpler deductions.*

## 20 · THE FINAL PROBLEM

### *The Last Judgement*

Death is often seen as the final solution to all human troubles, but for Sherlock Holmes it simply ushered in a period of wandering and restitution that enabled him to return at last to continue his work as the first consulting detective. *The Final Problem* describes how, on 4th May 1891, Holmes was believed to have met his end at the hands of his arch enemy, Professor James Moriarty. *The Empty House*, which is set three years later, describes his miraculous return, drawn out of retirement or hiding to capture Moriarty's second in command, Colonel Sebastian Moran. As with many authors who create a character that is universally loved, Conan Doyle grew tired of writing Holmes stories and decided to kill his hero off. The outpouring of grief, anger and dismay that followed demonstrated that, for many people, Holmes was a real person. This caused Doyle to change his mind and bring his creation back to life. The rapturous reaction experienced by Watson and Mrs Hudson at the restoration of the great detective perfectly mirrors the sense of renewal at the heart of the Last Judgement card in classic tarot symbolism.

### THE GAME

*Changes of direction impinge from all sides. New discoveries bring renewal and transformation to your theories. Your vision is prophetic, causing you to re-evaluate your findings. The impulse to change or reform your life gets nearer. You experience a recapitulation of evidence in a new way. A life-changing vision is under way and you are a part of it. You recover something you may have lost sight of.*

**Keys**

- RENEWAL • RESURRECTION
- ENDING OR BEGINNING
- RECAPITULATION OF EVENTS OR IDEAS
  - PROPHETIC VISION
- FORGIVENESS • ADJUSTMENT
- RECOVERY OF THAT WHICH HAS BEEN LOST SIGHT OF
- IMPULSE TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE
  
- SIMPLICITY • WEAKNESS
- STAGNATION • DELAY

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'Come, friend Watson,  
the curtain rings up  
for the last act.'*

THE SECOND STAIN

## THE FOG

Forgiveness or adjustments are difficult when you are grudging with your response. You reap what you sow. You procrastinate while you check the evidence. You ignore new opportunities. Rejecting innovations, you limit yourself to what you know. You wait in line for a chance that may never come. Painful memories hold you in check. Accept what needs to be laid down and make your way without it.

# 21 · THE LONDON TIMES

*The World*

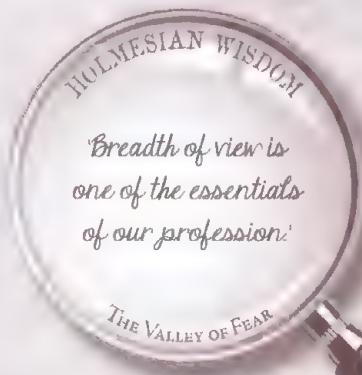
The great London newspaper remained a major source of information throughout Sherlock Holmes' long career. He frequently consults it during his cases, quoting snippets of wisdom to Watson. Founded in 1788, it has remained one of the most famous daily news sheets in the world, considered to be in a class of its own. Words cut from the *Times* were used to construct the mysterious warning letter sent to Sir Hugo Baskerville in the story of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and Holmes also discovered news of the Countess of Morcar's blue carbuncle, the death of Major Sholto and the advertisements for two of his endangered clients, Mary Morstan (later Mrs John H. Watson) and Violet Smith, in this newspaper. The international power of the *Times*, both in news and the financial marketplace, make it an ideal representation of the all-encompassing imagery of the card of the World.

## THE GAME

Time to rethink your life and begin anew. Look at the bigger picture and see what it means. Things reach a point of culmination or perfection. The case is cracked. By pushing beyond the limits, your view of the situation expands. Becoming perfectly engaged with the essence of the issue, you reach a satisfactory conclusion. Triumph over challenges, fears or limitations. You choose action over inertia. Contemplate your heart's desire and make one practical step towards it. Experience triumph.

**Keys**

- RESTORATION • CULMINATION
- TRIUMPH • ATTAINMENT • PERFECTION
- RAPTURE • SPIRITUAL HEALING
- CREATIVE GROWTH • A FRESH START
  
- OBSTACLES • IMPERFECTION
- LACK OF FORESIGHT
- DESPAIR • FALSE LEADS



## THE FOG

Delays and postponements trouble you. Obligations drag you down and the case fails to reach completion. Honours are slow in arriving and you feel resentment. You become distracted by the task in hand and miss the bigger picture. Emotional restrictions leave you feeling out of harmony with the world. Clinging to limitations saps the joy of success. Getting out of your own way, you are able to see more clearly.

# THE MINOR ARCANA

*'I'm a consulting detective, if you can understand what that is. Here in London we have lots of government detectives and lots of private ones. When these fellows are at fault, they come to me, and I manage to put them on the right scent. They lay all the evidence before me, and I am generally able, by the help of my knowledge ... to set them straight.'*

A STUDY IN SCARLET

The four suits are based on the specific skills that aid Holmes in his work. These are: **Observation** (Swords) – the study of events that leads to **Evidence** (Wands) ... the search for which primes the case; **Analysis** (Cups) – the consideration of all factors in the case; and, lastly, **Deduction** (Pentacles), in which the detective, having assembled all the facts, reaches a solution. Together, these four aspects of the question asked by the querent, and with the additional support of the Major archetypes, add up to an answer. In Part Three, you will find a specific method of laying out the cards which focuses on the balanced use of all four elements to arrive at a solution (see page 140).

~ SUIT OF ~  
**OBSERVATION**  
{SWORDS}

*'This is a time for observation,  
not for talk.'*

THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE

Observation is a key aspect of Sherlock Holmes' skill in interpreting the signs attendant on a case. As he points out on more than one occasion, people may look but very few really see what is in front of them. In the tarot, one must learn to look beyond the image in the same way that we learn to look beyond the classical meanings or the interpretations of each new deck that appears. The Suit of Observation shows this in a number of ways, demonstrating how the sword that is its classic equivalent can be used not only to wound but also to cut away the things that are no longer needed, clearing a path to new realizations.



## ACE



The beginning of all adventures lies in the energy brought to it and which it also disperses. Again and again, Sherlock Holmes leads the way on a new case with all the eagerness of a bloodhound catching the scent. His mind holds every fact and detail and shuffles them like a deck of cards until the solution is arrived at. The Ace represents a place of profound beginnings, of clarity and strength which ushers in a new and vital approach to each situation that arises. Holmes observes every tiny detail until he can lay bare the truth. He literally shines the light of his intellect into the darkness of unexplained facts. Here we see him preparing to wake his trusty companion before heading out into new territory. He has deciphered the code, assembled the information, and is ready to begin another adventure.



**The Game** You possess clarity and power, and from this new ideas arise. Truth and ethics keep you focused. The power of the intellect and your sharp analysis of everything reveal things clearly to you. You assert yourself and speak out when something moves you. By seeing things through, illusions are dispersed and mysteries unravelled.

**The Fog** You surrender to the inevitable, feeling powerless. Negative influences cloud your thoughts. Manipulation becomes a form of aggression. Exaggeration or self-detraction stops you from achieving your goals. You have no power to move things forward.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'This is a time for observation, not for talk.'*

THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE

## Keys

- INCISIVE ENERGY • CHAMPIONSHIP
- CONQUEST • THE DISPELLING OF ILLUSIONS
- STRENGTH AND POWER • LOVE OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE • RATIONAL PERCEPTION • THE POWER OF THE MIND • LIGHT IN DARK PLACES

- SLANDER • DISTRACTION
- HINDRANCE • DESTRUCTION



## TWO

Sherlock Holmes does not leap to conclusions without considering and sifting through all the facts. Whatever action you take, it is always better to think it through – to look before you leap. Nor should you take an irrevocable decision without first using your judgement to fathom out every aspect involved in the situation. Holmes always makes his own decisions regarding the outcome of a case. Here we see him paused in the act of making an arrest, waiting to hear the explanation offered to him by the villain. There are a number of instances in Holmes' various adventures where he chooses to allow ostensibly guilty people to go free, where his conscience dictates.

**The Game** Analysis of the situation is best before taking action. You may sit on the fence or avoid commitment. Laying aside your competitive nature. Hesitation or compromise. Making a pact or alliance with another. Amnesty, truce or peace. Acknowledging an impasse.

**The Fog** Closing yourself off. Suspension of deeply held beliefs. Ignoring the writing on the wall. Communications or relationships break down. Unequal contracts or a sense of disrespect strains relations. Questioning or uncovering the wrongs of society. Hesitating to make a decision.

## Keys

- AMNESTY OR TEMPORARY PEACE
- INDECISION • COMPROMISE • HESITATION
- SUSPENSION OF DEEPLY HELD BELIEFS OR OPINIONS • ANALYSIS BEFORE ACTION
  
- TREACHERY • DUPLEXITY • BETRAYAL
- FALSE FRIENDSHIP • DISHONOUR

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*I had rather play tricks with the law of England than with my own conscience.*

THE ABBEY GRANGE

## THREE

Even Sherlock Holmes is capable of making mistakes. He occasionally meets his match, as in the case of the infamous Irene Adler. And, sometimes, his judgement can go astray; in *The Adventure of the Abbey Grange*, for example, he remarks to Watson that 'Once or twice in my career I feel that I have done more real harm by my discovery of the criminal than ever he had done by his crime.' Though not often prey to doubt, Holmes could be deeply affected by events. His response was invariably the seven-per-cent solution of cocaine (see also page 34) or the solace of the violin. In this card, his moodiness and occasional fits of depression find him staring out of the window into the fog-bound streets of London, a newspaper in which he is accused of a blunder having fallen from his grasp.



**• The Game** Personal troubles. Sorrow, deep disappointment. Brooding upon personal slights. Separation from a friend or partner. Moving on after loss or failure. Bereavement following the loss of a partner or friend. A period of national mourning which affects you personally.

**• The Fog** Denial that anything is wrong. Enjoying melancholia and letting it feed your creativity. Playing with someone's affections. Reconstructing your life after bereavement. Painful truths are revealed. Scandalous events are hidden. A disaster is narrowly averted.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'The most difficult crime to track is the one which is purposeless.'*

THE NAVAL TREATY

## Keys

- SORROW • SEPARATION • LOSS
- DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT
- POSSESSION OF THOUGHTS BY JEALOUSY
- ANALYSIS OF YOUR RECEPTIVITY TO EVENTS

- ALIENATION • QUARREL
- DISORDERLINESS • MISTAKES



## FOUR

*A*fter any great outpouring of energy, a period of respite is required. Holmes himself seldom rested, but at times was forced by circumstances to do so. In the *The Illustrious Client*, where he comes up against the deadly cunning of the serial murderer Baron Gruner, Holmes at one stage feigns illness to the point of death in order to catch the villain. Seeming to sink deeper into his sickbed – much to Watson's alarm – he was indeed following the path of the hermit, sequestering himself and replenishing his strength until he could spring back into action and defeat his adversary.

◆ **The Game** Convalescence or enforced rest. Self-exile or retreat. Leaving things to others. Being considerate to others' needs or rights. Cessation of activity or halt in the proceedings. An opportunity to consolidate before returning to work. Resources and plans.

◆ **The Fog** Using your energies or resources wisely. Replenishing your life by taking a temporary absence. Feigning illness. Becoming available to friends. Filling your spare moments so that there's no time to think or feel. A strike or unexpected event breaks your routine. Excluding or banning individuals from a group.

### Keys

- RESPITE • HERMETIC SECLUSION
- MEDITATION • CONVALESCENCE • REST
- REPLENISHMENT OF SPIRIT • SOLITUDE
- REASSESSMENT OF YOUR LIMITATIONS
  
- ECONOMY • TAKING PRECAUTIONS
- CAREFUL ADMINISTRATION • GREED

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

I have been using  
myself up rather too  
freely... Have you any  
objection to my closing  
your shutters?

THE FINAL PROBLEM



## FIVE



Sherlock Holmes received requests from a number of ladies who had carelessly written incriminating love letters to men who were not their husbands, seeking to recover these signs of indiscretion. Most of these Holmes treated dismissively, as might be expected of one who, if not exactly misogynistic, had little time for the female of the species. One exception is the story of the master blackmailer Charles Augustus Milverton, a thoroughly evil man whose complex webs of deceit Holmes finally overthrows. The Five of Swords has much to do with deceit, slander and generally unethical activities, making this aspect of Holmes' work an ideal image. Here we see him looking on disdainfully as a distressed lady pleads with him to retrieve her indiscreet letters.



**The Game** Theft of your identity, slander or loss of your good name. Humiliation from treachery or cowardice. Thwarted plans. Abuse, assault or bullying. Unethical behaviour or malicious intentions. Envious opponents steal from you. A sense of defeat. Break-ins. Sloppy or malicious thinking may cause things to go awry. Helping those who may be damaged.

**The Fog** Re-establishing your hard-won reputation. Being alert to the signs of treachery. Not being defeated by past mistakes. An advocate or witness who supports you. Personal regrets or envy towards others leads you to undermine reputations. Getting to the bottom of a web of envy or malice.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

...the motives of women  
are so inscrutable.

THE SECOND STAIN

## Keys

- SLANDER • DEFEAT • COWARDICE
- UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR • DIVISIVE MEANS
- THWARTED PLANS • MALICIOUS INTENT
- BEING BURGLED
- 
- MISFORTUNE • LOSS • MOURNING
- PAIN • VENGEANCE



SIX



*H*olmes chose to share not only his life but also his innermost thoughts with Dr Watson. Their friendship, despite being challenged at times by Holmes' difficult character, was a deep one, and there are occasions when Watson's contribution is more than just that of a trusty companion. Between them, as they undertook case after case together, there existed a mutual regard that made them an excellent team. As Holmes himself remarked to Watson in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*: 'It may be that you are not yourself luminous, but you are a conductor of light.' The Six

of Swords has long been seen as a card of relationships, and especially the things we learn from sharing. When the great detective and his amanuensis put their heads together, the outcome is almost always dynamic and successful.

◆ **The Game** A journey or fresh insights and clues. A change of occupation. Success at last. Escaping from the present circumstances. Being an envoy or messenger on behalf of others. A chance to try a different way. New approaches to old problems.

◆ **The Fog** An unwillingness to leave the past life behind. Taking your troubles along with you. An inability to move forward. Maintaining a partnership that is over. Seeking approval from others. Taking the opportunity to jump ship.

### Keys

- SUCCESS AFTER TROUBLE
- SAFETY AND PROTECTION • A JOURNEY
- NEW PERSPECTIVES • CLEARANCE OF DIFFICULTIES AND BLOCKAGES AS A RESULT OF PERCEPTIVE THOUGHT
  
- DISCLOSURE • REVELATION • UNWANTED SURPRISE • CHANGE OF PLANS OR DIRECTION

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*Nothing clears up a case so much as stating it to another person...*

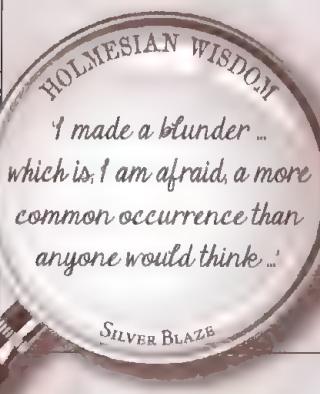
## SEVEN

*N*ot even Sherlock Holmes is infallible. In *The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton*, Holmes does indeed get it wrong. His attempt to burgle the house of the master blackmailer results in the death of his client. So great is Watson's desire to hide the truth about this that he changes the date and certain other details of the case so that the actual events, and those who took part in them, cannot be identified. In *The Yellow Face*, Holmes makes it clear that if he should ever get above himself Watson is to remind him of 'Norbury', the setting of his failure to interpret the facts ahead of the police. Here we see him recognizing that he has indeed failed in his endeavours, as he leaps up, scattering his newspaper to the four winds in his haste to set matters right.



◆ **The Game** Little progress. Mistakes are made. Quick thinking, decisive action or improvisation. Travelling under an alias. Using your initiative. Taking charge of a relationship. Spying on your partner. Carrying out a take-over. Strategy may win the day. Retrieving national secrets or treasures.

◆ **The Fog** Fear of being caught out. Testing a wild scheme before committing to it. Feeling vulnerable. Fruitlessly waiting for another chance. Regretting lost moments. Getting someone to spy for you. Trying to discern the hidden agenda in a friendship. Doing everything by the book.



Keys	
• UNSTABLE EFFORT • SELF-DECEIT	
• PLANS FAIL AS A RESULT OF UNCLEAR THINKING • PASSIVITY • OVER-DEFENSIVENESS	
• THE NEED FOR BETTER CONCEPTUALIZATION	
• ADVICE • WARNING	
• PRUDENCE • SLANDER	



## EIGHT

*Watson's loyalty to Holmes and his unhesitating willingness to undertake any task appointed by his friend occasionally led him into danger. 'It is at the hour of action that I turn to you,' Holmes remarks in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. When Watson is knocked unconscious by the villainous Colonel Sebastian Moran, Holmes' immediate concern for his friend is notable.* In this card we see an event which is not recorded in the canon, but which is no less likely to have occurred for that. In keeping with the essential meaning of this card, Watson is bound to a chair and seems in imminent danger of being further beaten. Help is at hand, however, as Sherlock Holmes is close by.

◆ **The Game** Caught up in matters beyond your control. Fruitless occupations which you cannot resist. Restriction or lack of perspective. Fear of what others may say about you. Allowing yourself to be convinced by others. Public views reflect an ideology or institution. Imprisonment or illness stops you in your tracks.

◆ **The Fog** Seeing things more clearly. Escaping. Resisting self-sabotage. Renegotiating the rules. Accepting help in a time of need. Emerging from the influence of a restrictive power. Escaping worn-out patterns. Naming and shaming ideas that bind others.

## Keys

- RESTRICTION • ONE'S BOUNDEN DUTY
- FEAR OF WHAT OTHERS SAY
- BIGOTED OPINIONS • INTOLERANCE
- IMPRISONMENT • ILLNESS
- TIME TO END OUTWORN THOUGHT PATTERNS
- DESTINY • MISFORTUNE • ACCIDENT
- SURPRISES • DANGER

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

Now we will take another  
line of reasoning:

The DISAPPEARANCE OF LADY FRANCES CARAAN



## NINE



**G**enerally, Holmes was two or three steps ahead of his adversaries, but on occasion he was outmanoeuvred and came under physical threat. His skills as a boxer and his knowledge of various martial arts, including 'baritsu' and singlestick, made him a formidable opponent. However, during the case chronicled under the title *The Illustrious Client*, Holmes is placed in very real danger when the infamous Baron Gruner, a serial bigamist and murderer, sends two powerful toughs to beat Holmes almost to death. Here we see the body of the great detective lying on the cobbles, having fallen under a rain of blows from coshes and clubs. Watson is shocked to read in the newspapers that Holmes is near death, but on hastening to 221B Baker Street finds that Holmes has deliberately exaggerated his condition. In the end, Gruner gets his just desserts by having vitriol thrown in his face.



◆ **The Game** Premonitions and nightmares. Brooding about fearful things. A troubled conscience. Feeling under attack. Depression or pain. The need for a disciplined lifestyle and commitment to logical thought. Feeling vulnerable. Mistrust and exaggerated rumours. Self-doubt.

◆ **The Fog** Coming out of a deep depression. Working through recurrent fears or nightmares in the light of day. Finding serenity by facing your fears. Looking for a confidante or counsellor. Bearing with relationship troubles patiently. Check your suspicions carefully.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*Now is the dramatic  
moment of fate ...*

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

## Keys

- SUFFERING • CRUELTY • DESPAIR
- DEPRESSION • GRAVE DOUBTS • GUILT
- PREMONITIONS THAT WEAKEN YOUR RESOLVE
- INABILITY TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN PATH
- GOSSIP • SHAME • DISGRACE
- ILL-FAVoured RUMOUR • STRUGGLE



TEN

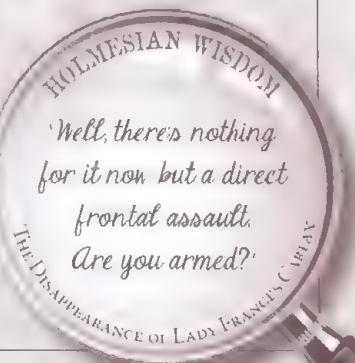
Sherlock Holmes is, by nature, a cerebral investigator. He can solve crimes in many instances without even leaving the shelter of 221B Baker Street. When he does venture forth, it is more often than not to examine evidence at the scene of the crime. Occasionally, circumstances require him to become physically involved in events. When he does so, the trusty Watson is always at his side, ready to lend his physical strength or fire his revolver. There are stories where both men are forced to use their strength to enter a locked building, or to defend themselves against considerable odds. Here, in a scene from *The Empty House*, we see them about to break into the building where Colonel Sebastian Moran - Moriarty's second in command - lies in wait. The ensuing struggle will almost cost Watson his life, and, in the end, the villain - though captured - escapes again.

**◆ The Game** A life-or-death decision may leave you frozen. Troubles reach their height. The worst outcome passes you by. Making it through a narrow pass or dangerous encounter alive. Attending a death-bed or dealing with bereavement. Grievances that cannot always be answered or assuaged. Facing fears with resolution and acknowledging the power of past events.

**◆ The Fog** Troubles are over at last. Relief from continuing stress. Survival followed by gradual improvement. Dealing with the aftermath of problems. Setting the record straight improves the situation. New opportunities are created.

### Keys

- THE NEED FOR DARING AND RESOLUTION
- LIFE-AND-DEATH DECISIONS • THE FINAL SOLUTION DICTATED BY RUTHLESS LOGIC
  - AFFLICTION • TOTAL OPPRESSION
  - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OLD DEBTS
- FAVOURS CLAIMED • BENEFITS • PROFIT
  - RECOVERY • AUTHORITY



## BAKER STREET IRREGULAR

Without the assistance of his unofficial army of irregulars, Holmes would have wasted numerous hours seeking those scraps of information and the location of specific objects that would ultimately help him catch the villains. In the Page of Swords, here represented by one of the many swift and clever Street Arabs who formed the Baker Street Irregulars, we encounter one who grasps ideas quickly and helps them materialize. While delivering a message for Holmes, he takes the opportunity to peek through the letterbox.



**The Game** Ready for anything, able for most things, he can be valiant and watchful, precociously alert to events happening around him. An expert at surveillance, able to calculate risks and deal with whatever problems the day may bring. Often this card suggests the arrival of unexpected news, but the Irregular is always on hand to help find a way through the most tortuous problems.

**The Fog** Weakness, vulnerability to attack or slander. He may be an imposter, a false friend or a traitor to those with whom he works. Given to sudden outbursts or unexpected actions, he should be observed with caution.

*'They can go everywhere,  
see everything,  
overhear everyone.'*

*THE SIGN OF FOUR*

### Keys

- PERCEPTION • DISCERNMENT
- VIGILANCE IN THE CAUSE OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE

- AN IMPOSTER • UNEXPECTED EVENTS
- ACTING WITHOUT FORETHOUGHT



## PEELER

The police are not often portrayed in a good light in the Sherlock Holmes stories. In *The Valley of Fear*, Holmes notes that he accepts a case in order to help the police, but adds: 'If I have ever separated myself from the official force, it is because they have first separated themselves from me.' Despite this, the peelers (so named after their founder, Sir Robert Peel) are generally presented as worthy, dependable and able-bodied. Here we see such an officer attending a crime in which a woman is being attacked. The peeler is able and ready to take on the assailant.

**◆ The Game** A champion who lives to defend and uphold beliefs. He has clear views and opinions and is a good advocate to those with no voice. Incisive and fearless, prompt to defend the weak and swift to halt injustice, he asserts the idea of right with skill and courage. A friend who is always energetic and spontaneous. A cause that you espouse. A speedy turn of events. A decision that needs to be made. A meeting of like-minded people. A revolutionary inspiration.

**◆ The Fog** A tactless, rude and opinionated person. Holding a grudge. The only dissent he tolerates is his own. Using subtlety as a way through. Festering anger. A violent reaction. Ideological persecution. Treating individuals as numbers rather than people.

### Keys

- HEROISM • IMPULSIVENESS
- FEARLESSNESS • INCISIVENESS
- DEFENDER OF THE WEAK
  
- SWINDLER • PICKPOCKET • THIEF
- CONCEITEDNESS
- EXTRAVAGANT BEHAVIOUR

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'...it is impossible at the moment of action to enter into long and complex explanations.'*

THE DANCING MEN



## LADY



The number of women who evince any respect from Holmes are few and far between in his many case files. However, he does acknowledge, in *The Man with the Twisted Lip*, that he has seen 'too much not to know that the impression of a woman may be more valuable than the conclusion of an analytical reasoner'. The Lady for this suit could be any one of Holmes' more determined clients, such as Lady Eva Dovercourt in *Charles Augustus Milverton*, or Helen Stoner in *The Speckled Band*. They are every bit as strong-willed as their male counterparts. Though these redoubtable ladies seek the assistance of Holmes, they do so much as one who employs a servant. If they are astounded or moved by the great detective's skills, they often show it less than the police or others dazzled by Holmes' abilities.



**◆ The Game** A defender of the unprotected, she is assiduous and fair-minded. She imparts a sense of justice to all who encounter her. Direct and sometimes outspoken, her intelligence and independence bring the ability to overcome events and carry on, despite stress. Astute and difficult to mislead. Facing unpleasant truths. Rational explanation or scientific view. Going to the heart of things.

**◆ The Fog** Someone who knows about pain and loss. Subjection to mind-games or lack of care. Someone who speaks out sharply, or who has a razor wit. She may lash out if disappointed or frustrated, have a hypercritical tongue, or harbour resentment. Ideals turning sour. Self-reliance which causes vulnerability. Pride that colours everything. A lingering sorrow.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

'We must strike while  
the iron is hot.'

THE CARDBOARD BOX

## Keys

- HONESTY • INTEGRITY

- FOCUS • DILIGENCE

- REFUSAL TO BEAR FOOLS GLADLY

- A SPITEFUL WOMAN • DECEIT • TRICKERY

- FANATICISM • SEEKING SOLITUDE



## INSPECTOR

**I**nspектор Stanley Hopkins is a Scotland Yard detective and a student of Holmes' deductive methods who attempts to apply them in his own investigations. Hopkins sometimes makes huge mistakes, such as the time when he arrested a man whose notebook was found at a crime scene, despite it being physically impossible for the man in question to have killed the victim in the manner in which he was discovered. Hopkins refers several cases to Holmes, all within the south-east areas of England and London. He is something of a protégé of Holmes, and appears in several stories. He is young, alert and enthusiastic. Here we see him escorting the murderous Patrick Cairns, from the story of *Black Peter*.

◆ **The Game** A giver of justice whose judgements can cut to the heart of the matter. His severity is tempered by impartiality, and he shows how self-analysis may govern one's life. A moral leader. Knowledge and research of the highest quality. Highly principled discernment gives a clear perspective. Perceiving the truth of a case. Being watchful and giving good counsel. Finding an impartial standpoint. Precise information. A disciplined approach.

◆ **The Fog** An exacting critic. Emotional detachment. Unfair behaviour. An inclination to bend the rules. An unrelenting situation or harsh treatment. Ultimate forms of authority. Unfair rules or demands.

### Keys

- ARTICULATE • JUST
- ADVICE OR COUNSEL • SELF-ANALYSIS
- PRINCIPLED DISCERNMENT
  
- 
- AN ENEMY • CRUELTY • WORRY
- GRIEF • RESENTMENT

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*He possesses two out  
of the three qualities  
necessary for the  
ideal detective.*

THE SIGN OF FOUR

~ SUIT OF ~  
**EVIDENCE**  
{WANDS}



*'Data! Data! Data!  
I can make no bricks without clay!'*

THE COPPER BEECHIES

Despite his ability to find solutions through the fine art of deduction, Holmes also relied on evidence to help him discover the chain of events that led to the committing of a criminal act. Again and again, he stresses the importance of sifting through the facts, even to the point of suggesting alternative solutions to those indicated by his intuitive grasp of a situation. In the tarot, also, it is not always wise to rely on the most obvious surface interpretation of a spread. Learning to look beyond the apparent meaning, especially in the case of difficult or complex questions, is part of the skill learned over years of study and countless readings. Even for the beginner, however, considering as many layers of meaning as may present themselves can add much to the overall interpretation. The Suit of Evidence has much to do with taking action – 'acting upon information received', as police reports so often say. It is not enough simply to find helpful answers to our queries; following up on what we learn is every bit as important.



ACE

*O*n the few occasions that he allowed the laser-like focus of his mind to relax, Sherlock Holmes enjoyed indulging himself in the delights of music and creativity. This gave him licence to roam free within his imagination, and often resulted in an electrifying interpretation of the facts of a particular case. At the beginning of any new enterprise it is always wise to take stock, and this Holmes did through the art of making music. That he also derived energy from this exercise is clearly the case. Here we see him in a typical pose, violin under chin, at the windows of 221B Baker Street.

◆ **The Game** Inspiration prompts you to discover new areas of endeavour. Creative excitement and enthusiasm. A sense of eager adventure leads to accepting the case. Your energy is infectious, and you bring a sense of innovation and purpose to everything you approach. Opportunity and energy are resonant now. You get the go-ahead or the approval to start a new venture.

◆ **The Fog** Your carefully laid plans are challenged. A premature beginning needs to be rethought. Learn to be patient. Your efforts become scattered or fragmented. Forcing the issue brings reaction or revolution. The world is not yet ready for what you have to offer. You have little or no enthusiasm for a proffered friendship.

### Keys

- CREATIVITY • INNOVATION • PURPOSE
- THE BEGINNING OF A PROJECT • BIRTH
- THE FACULTY OF INTUITION • INSPIRATION
- ENERGY • CHALLENGE
  
- DECADENCE • COLLAPSE • CRUELTY
- HOPES UNFOUNDED

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*"hand me over my violin and let us try to forget for half an hour the ... miserable ways of our fellow men."*

THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS

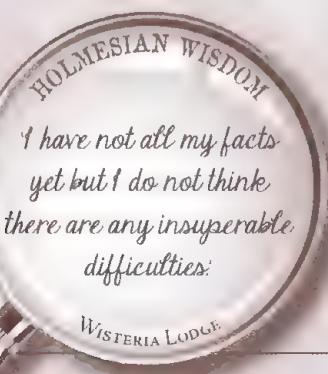
## TWO

*A*mong Holmes' many gifts, his understanding of chemistry often led to the uncovering of hidden clues. He made a special study of cigar ash, and could, he claimed, 'distinguish at a glance the ash of any known brand, either of cigar or of tobacco'. He also wrote monographs on footprints and the nature of perfumes, of which he claimed to recognize seventy-five types. Watson called his knowledge of chemistry, 'profound, though eccentric' and often complained that the rooms at 221B Baker Street were full of chemicals. Here we see Holmes at a bench laden with chemical apparatus. He stares through the lens of a microscope, while a small dish containing a cigar and a heel of ash sits to one side. The use of intuition tempered with observation is central to the meaning of this card.



**The Game** You have the drive to discover answers. Control and mastery enable to you to take risks and pioneer new approaches to detection of the truth. You achieve your aims by making good choices. Originality shapes your life. Your research into opinion helps you reach your own conclusions. New partnerships or alliances are possible. Your opinion may have a life-changing impact on those around you.

**The Fog** A sense of unworthiness curbs your power. You lose faith in yourself. Make sure your signals are clear to avoid misunderstandings. A friend or partner has opposing objectives. Your restraint makes matters safer for others. Lack of any spiritual dimension narrows your horizons and reduces your efficacy.

**Keys**

- INTUITIVE BRILLIANCE • CONTROL
- MASTERY • DYNAMIC DRIVE
- SKILLED ORGANIZATION OF RESOURCES
- INTUITIVE SYNTHESIS
  
- SURPRISE • UNPREPAREDNESS • FEAR
- NEW POSSIBILITIES • ANXIETY



## THREE

*H*olmes often takes the initiative in the pursuit of criminals, and is always prepared for anything that may happen. He observes, calculates and weighs everything in the balance, before making a move. Here we see him in the midst of his investigation into the strange matter of the phantom hound, looking grim and intent, crouched inside the entrance to a small cave on the moors overlooking Baskerville Hall. Prepared to wait as long as necessary for the facts to present themselves, he checks that he has everything needful to the task ahead. This perfectly expresses the central meaning of the Three of Wands, which is to do with intent, preparation and readiness.

◆ **The Game** Your sense of enterprise and initiative gets the adventure started. Through foresight, you explore all possibilities. You decide to go into partnership or move in with someone. Agreeing on a strategy. Your shared dream becomes reality. Your example paves the way for others. You take responsibility for your actions.

◆ **The Fog** A creative block or lack of venture brings a halt to your plans. Day-dreaming causes frustrating delays. Arguing over the best way to proceed. A sense of being overwhelmed by the full picture. Arrogance and over-ambition alienate those around you. You come to the end of a period of adversity. Ulterior motives mess with the contract.

### Keys

- ESTABLISHED STRENGTH • CONTROLLED INTENTION • INTUITIVE UNDERSTANDING
- SCRUPULOUS RESPONSIBILITY
- ENTERPRISING INITIATIVE
  
- AN END TO PAIN • HIDDEN MOTIVES
- DISTRUST • REWARD FOR YOUR LABOURS

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*The nets are all in place, and the drag is about to begin.*

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

## FOUR

*A*t the successful conclusion of a case, Holmes and Watson were not averse to celebrating. Though the solving of most puzzles might be easy to Holmes, every now and then he would encounter something he found more challenging. In such instances, the discovery and capture of a criminal was clearly satisfying to the great detective. In this scene, we capture a rare moment of conviviality in which Holmes and Watson – sitting together in an opulently decorated restaurant (perhaps London's famous Café Royal, or Simpson's in Piccadilly) – celebrate a successful end to another case. The traditional card meaning, which is to do with a successful conclusion of an enterprise, enjoying the outcome of your labours or, more simply, the acknowledgement of your own innate skills, is ideally referenced.



• **The Game** Harmony and contentment. An enterprise is completed successfully. Appreciating the pleasures of companionship. A harmonious conclusion to the case brings a sense of achievement. A sense of thankfulness for all that has been achieved. Enjoying the fruits of your efforts. Consolidating alliances, or affirming that you belong to a group.

• **The Fog** Things remain unfinished, or something mars your complete enjoyment. Emotionally disconnected from your achievements. Your tendency to take things for granted does not sit well with others. A lack of appreciation for the joys and benefits of life. The end of holidays means a reluctant return to work. Insecurity or apprehensions make you feel left out.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM  
*I think that something nutritious at Simpson's*

*would not be out of place.*

THE DYING DETECTIVE

## Keys

- COMPLETION OF AN ENTERPRISE
- A TIME OF FESTIVAL AND CELEBRATION
- ENJOYMENT OF THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABOURS
  - A HARMONIOUS CONCLUSION
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INTUITIVE STRENGTH
- PROSPERITY • SUCCESS • ADVANTAGE
- LACK OF APPRECIATION OF PLEASURES



## FIVE

*O*ne could hardly look for a finer example of contention and struggle – the core meaning of this card – than the story of *The Red-Headed League*. In this tale, Holmes is commissioned by a red-haired pawnbroker named Jabez Wilson. Wilson had answered an advertisement in the newspaper for red-headed men to join a mysterious league, and, having been selected out of dozens of contenders, was given the task of transcribing the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* by hand, every day, between the hours of ten and two. In a matter of days, he finds a notice on the door of his workplace declaring the league disbanded. His curiosity piqued by this bizarre tale, Holmes assesses the evidence and discovers it was a ruse to get Wilson out of his shop for long enough to enable a treacherous assistant to dig a tunnel into the bank next door. Here, we see a red-haired man being subdued by Watson.

◆ **The Game** You make little headway against strong opposition. You strive for advantage despite resistance. Arguments and disagreements. Becoming agitated or worked up. The need to distinguish between rightful intuition and unassuaged desires. Competitiveness and rivalry drive your relationships. New facts in the case change everything. Your dictatorial attitude obstructs the picture.

◆ **The Fog** Long-term disputes need arbitration. Betrayal or cheating on a friendship. Partners abandon the rules of fair play. Passive aggression manipulates hostility. Letting others assume control disempowers you. Public opinion turns against you where it once applauded your actions.

## Keys

- CONTENTION AND STRIFE
- SALUTARY STRUGGLE • COMPETITIVENESS
- DICTATORIAL ATTITUDES CAUSE OBSTRUCTION
- COURT • TRIBUNAL • LEGAL ACTIONS
- CONTRADICTIONS

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*I know, my dear Watson,  
that you share my love  
of all that is bizarre.*

THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE

## SIX

Sherlock Holmes is several times offered rewards in grateful response to his services. As noted on the Queen-Empress card (see page 30), in solving the theft of sensitive naval papers, related in *The Bruce-Partington Plans*, Holmes receives an emerald tie pin from 'a certain gracious lady' – almost certainly Queen Victoria. And in the story of *A Scandal in Bohemia*, Holmes successfully retrieves compromising letters written by the King of Bohemia to the spy Irene Adler, the only woman he acknowledges as an equal. Here we see a high-ranking personage offering a small case containing a gift for Holmes – gracious thanks from His Majesty.



**♦ The Game** Advancement realized through steady growth. Pride in achievement or promotion. Self-confidence leads you to success. Winning your partner's admiration. Reciprocal love. Recognition assures your popular status. You share your skills to benefit others.

**♦ The Fog** Brief rewards. Arrogance shadows your achievements. Doubting your own self-esteem. Disloyalty from trusted close friends. Lack of shared interests leaves others out of your circle. Bathing in reflected glory. Observing the achievements of others to duplicate their success.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

What one man can invent  
another can discover.

THE DANCING MEN

## Keys

- VICTORY • INTUITIVE SELF-CONFIDENCE
- ADVANCEMENT THROUGH GROWTH
- PRIDE IN ACHIEVEMENT • RECOGNITION
- CEREMONIAL HONOURS
- TREACHERY • CAUTION • FORESIGHT
- LACK OF MOVEMENT • HOPE DEFERRED



## SEVEN

There are times when even the most gifted investigator requires additional skills to interpret the facts. On more than one occasion, Holmes and Watson need the services of a skilful nose – that of the tenacious hound Toby. In *The Sign of Four* they borrowed Toby from his master, and used him to track down the killers of a murdered man. Holmes remarked to Watson that he would 'rather have Toby's help than that of the whole detective force of London'. In *The Missing Three-Quarter*, he uses a draghound named Pompey. Here, we see Watson being dragged along a dark alley by Toby on a leash, a shadowy fugitive having disappeared around the corner only just ahead of them. All of this demonstrates that there are times when going it alone is inadvisable.

**◆ The Game** Allowing yourself to accept help. Your tenacity pays off. You defend your personal views in the face of adversity. Self-assertion. Discussion, dialogue or debate. Going head-to-head to sort things out. Persistence shows you to be in the right. Public opinion is won over. Resisting authority and speaking up for the victims of crime.

**◆ The Fog** The wind is knocked out of your sails. You feel defensive or even paranoid. A tendency to seek a fight or to act aggressively. Your hesitation causes others to be left undefended. Refuting criticism. Feeling inferior or vulnerable to the opposition. Anxiety caused by feeling at a disadvantage.

### Keys

- COURAGEOUS ABILITY
- SUCCESS DESPITE OPPPOSITION • TENACITY
- PERSISTENCE UPHELD BY STRONG INTUITION
- DEFENCE OF STRONGLY HELD BELIEFS
- EMBARRASSMENT • VICTIMIZATION
- LOSS • SURPLUS • EXCESS

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

'Singularity is almost invariably a clue.'

The ROSCOMBE VALLEY MYSTERS

## EIGHT

Holmes and Watson lived in a time when the rail network spanning Britain was second to none. Thanks to Bradshaw's inestimable directory, published monthly, which listed every train, its departure, and its route and arrival, it was possible to leave a station in London and arrive at a destination with great accuracy and, for the most part, on time. The frequency of trains was also far greater than we are used to now. Holmes was able to catch a train to Dartmoor and arrive ahead of Watson, hiding out on the moors until he could spring his trap to catch the villain. The underlying meaning of this card has to do with swiftness, expediency and communication, all aspects of the rail system of the time. Without it, one may imagine that Holmes might not always have arrived in time to save endangered clients.



**The Game** The freedom to move forward without hindrance. Things moving fast – sometimes too fast. All the elements are in the air. A message you have been longing for is on its way. You become involved with another person very quickly. The swiftest means of communication. Things have speedy progress and rapid growth. You plunge into a social whirl.

**The Fog** Delays hamper you. Energy is dissipated by interruptions. Lack of control makes quarrels flare. Domestic disputes are likely. Your hasty pursuit frightens off others. Damaging rumours hit the headlines. Hasty expansion loses its trajectory. Stagnation follows, upon dealing with too many issues at once.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

Make a long arm,  
Watson, and see what  
V has to say!

THE SUSSEX VAMPIRE

## Keys

- SWIFTNESS • EXPEDIENCY
- HASTY PERPETRATION OF INTUITIONS
- PROPHETIC INSIGHT • SPEEDY PROGRESS
- COMMUNICATION
- QUARRELS • DISPUTATION • SETBACKS
- STOPPAGES • REGRETS • LACK OF SCRUPLES



## NINE

Sometimes physical strength is every bit as necessary as brainpower. Holmes may have spent a great deal of time reading, thinking or conducting experiments, but – when required – he was as sturdy and unrelenting a figure as any man. His determination to prove that the phantom hound of the Baskervilles was as solid as a stone or a clod of earth led him to spend nights and days living rough in a cave, and both he and Watson struggled against the elements while striking out across the rugged landscape of Devonshire. Here we see them preparing to set out across the bleak, inhospitable moor towards Baskerville Hall, on the trail of the hound. The keys to understanding this card are all reflected by the struggle against seemingly impersonal, and at times overwhelming, forces that seek to impede even the smallest progress.

**◆ The Game** A dogged opposition when in unfamiliar terrain. The use of reserves of strength against adversity. Obstinacy gets you through. Protecting others against attack. Defending the essentials of health, home or partnership against all-comers. Recognizing the enemy or saboteur within.

**◆ The Fog** Fatigue or ill health brought on by over-exertion. Expressing nothing but hostility in a situation. Stepping in and assuming control disempowers you or others. Looking for subtle ways to overcome a strong opponent rather than wasting your energies. Diminished resources make it hard to hold out. Laying down the fight and allowing others to proceed.

## Keys

- ENDURING STRENGTH • GREAT RESERVES
- OBSTINACY • DEFENSIVENESS
- DEDICATION TO INTUITIVE PURPOSE
- THE WISDOM TO PREPARE AGAINST ADVERSITY
  
- OBSTACLES • DELAYS • IMMINENT DISASTER
- BAD LUCK • DISPLEASURE

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

... where there is no  
imagination there is  
no horror.

A STUDY IN SCARLET

## TEN

Sometimes in life we must accept the baptism of fire – the overwhelming pressure that almost reduces us to a heap of ash. However, if you carry on regardless of difficulties, and put every effort into your struggle, you stand to reap considerable rewards. In the same way, Sherlock Holmes never gave up on a client – never hesitated, once he had committed, to braving whatever peril or risky encounter he might meet. Nor was he above using such extreme situations to his advantage. In *A Scandal in Bohemia*, he remarked that he had more than once made good use of a situation where a person, believing their house on fire, rushes to save their most precious possession. The negative aspect of this card is always difficult, but beneath it lies a sense of recovery and the potential to reach calmer waters.



**The Game** Holding impossible standards. Over-estimating your own power. Trying to keep going against all odds. Being emotionally overwhelmed by demands. The pressures of responsibility or over-commitment. Delegating responsibility to a team or helper.

**The Fog** Recognizing signs of burnout. Walking away from unacceptable situations. Realizing that you can't do everything. Breaking out of an oppressive relationship. Backing out of a group project. Taking time to downsize. Recognizing the weight of the system on your shoulders.

**Keys**

- RESOLUTION BY TEST OF FIRE
- RESPONSIBILITY • EXCESSIVE BURDENS
- OVER-EXPANSION OF RESOURCES
- THE NEED TO DELEGATE
  
- OBSTACLES • INTRIGUE
- PLOTS • BEING TRAPPED



## BAKER STREET IRREGULAR

The ragged children who made up the Baker Street Irregulars are ready to take any risk for their hero, Sherlock Holmes. Rescued by him from the gutters of London low-life, they find pride – and meaning – serving the needs of the great detective, recovering valuable intelligence on a variety of issues. Holmes paid them a shilling a day and, on occasion, offered a guinea to the one who found the most important or useful piece of information. Here, we see Wiggins, ubiquitous leader of the Irregulars, about to pick the pocket of a villainous-looking man. Unfortunately, the cove has spotted him, and elbows him in the head. Good information can come from the most unlikely sources.

**The Game** An adventurous person who acts as an emissary or ambassador. He shows the way through impossible situations by his daring, often by adopting a disguise. A catalyst for change and improvement. Devotion to a particular interest. Some unexpected news. Learning to engage with life. Hiding behind a mask. Getting the case completed. Sudden help transpires. An opening allows you to shine.

**The Fog** Someone easily influenced. Occasionally over-zealous or bored, he likes to grab attention. Unable to deal with the details of a situation. Strange or unsettling news. Past history reveals hidden facts.

### Keys

- RESOURCEFULNESS • LOYALTY
- ENTHUSIASM • CANDOUR
- UNINHIBITEDNESS
  
- 
  
- BAD NEWS • FABLES • CONCERN
- INDECISION • INSTABILITY

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'Dirty-looking rascals,  
but I suppose every  
one has some little  
immortal spark...'*

THE SIGN OF FOUR

## PEELER

Though Holmes seldom had anything positive to say about the police force, quite a number of strong, determined and eager officers are mentioned throughout the canon. They are usually seen guarding the entrances or exits to the scene of a crime, or heading out in search of clues (when advised by Holmes so to do). In *The Man with the Twisted Lip*, two constables salute Holmes when he arrives at the Bow Street police court, showing that his eminence was recognized, however reluctantly, by the force. In this instance, we see a trusty constable standing up to an armed thug, grabbing his hand and forcing it (and the knife it holds) towards the sky.



**The Game** An energetic and impetuous champion, his companionship leads to exciting adventures. An impulsive person whose flamboyance others admire. Given to leaping in boldly where others fear to tread; hasty decisions may be risky at times. A dynamic lover. A competitive show-off. A rebel without a cause, who needs the constant stimulus of dramatic events. Leaving old ways behind in the face of new evidence.

**The Fog** A reckless person who endangers others. Travel. Impatience. A chance to change things or move away. Plans that develop, only to die away. Separation by distance. Domineering attitudes that may wreck relationships.

*When I have spun the web  
they may take the flies,  
but not before.*

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS

## Keys

- ADVENTUROUS • QUICK-WITTED
- IMPULSIVE • DYNAMIC
- FEARLESS • GIVEN TO RISKY DECISIONS
- DISCORD • QUARRELS • DISSENTION
- MISUNDERSTANDINGS • ESTRANGEMENT
- AN UNEXPECTED EVENT



## LADY

We never learn the name of the mysterious lady who brings an end to the life of the evil black-mailer in *The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton*. Holmes and Watson, hiding behind the curtains in Milverton's house, are witnesses to the event. Clearly the lady is one of the master blackmailer's many victims, who has finally taken all that she can. Her response – the shooting of the man who has plagued her – may be criminal, but, as Holmes himself remarks, 'There are certain crimes which the law cannot touch, and which therefore, to some extent, justify private revenge.' In this scene we see a woman holding a smoking gun, while behind her a body lies on the floor. The Queen of Wands is generally understood to be someone who knows the ways of the world, and in this instance the Lady acts from a desire for justice.

◆ **The Game** A deeply dedicated person, who has an abundance of self-assurance and a wide knowledge of the world. Her personal circumstances may be tragic, but she is generous towards all. She brings both passion and enthusiasm to whatever she does. She is committed and kind, but quick to defend those whose rights she upholds. She may teach ways to use ambition creatively. Courteous dealing paves the way to better understanding.

◆ **The Fog** She can be unpredictable and retaliatory if crossed. Jealousy and rivalry arise if something is not done. She may expect higher standards than you can reach. Always seek an expert opinion before proceeding. Burnout may occur.

## Keys

- GENEROSITY • COMMITMENT
- SELF-ASSURANCE • DEDICATION
- QUICK TO DEFEND
  
- ENVY • INSTABILITY • FICKLENES
- HINDERING THE OUTCOME

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

'Shocking, Watson,  
shocking!'

THE VALLEY OF FEAR

## INSPECTOR

**H**ere we find Inspector Martin from *The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton*. He is an earnest, florid country copper, whose dedication to the law is total, allowing him to work with Sherlock Holmes without the jealousy and obtrusiveness so often experienced by the great detective. Holmes remarks, in *The Boscombe Valley Mystery*, that 'local aid is always either worthless or else biased'. But, in this instance, he found an officer who was willing both to listen and to follow up on his advice. Here we see the Inspector looking down from an open window, notebook in hand, at the imprint of footsteps leading away below. He is examining the evidence with great intent.



• **The Game** An honourable and magnanimous person who takes command. He possesses marked self-respect and a flare for establishing a presence. A charismatically attractive person. Committed to his intuitive understanding of the world, even to the point of sacrifice. An opportunity. Being benevolent towards others. Establishing your position. Being assertive or enthusiastic. Land-management or purchase of a property. A popular and successful business venture.

• **The Fog** Avoiding a position of leadership. Egotism. An autocrat or power-hungry person. Dominating the situation. Bullying others from a place of power. Self-righteousness. A dispute over copyright or intellectual property. An aggressive take-over bid. Land or property is mismanaged.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*If you wish to get on...  
you will work with me  
and not against me.*

*THE NAVAL TREATY*

### Keys

- HONEST • PASSIONATE • CHARISMATIC
- HONOURABLE • MAGNANIMOUS
- UPHOLDER OF THE LAW
  
- OVERLY SERIOUS • DOGMATIC
- SEVERE • COMPLAINING
- EXAGGERATED IDEAS

~ SUIT OF ~  
**ANALYSIS**  
{CUPS}

'There are fifty who can reason synthetically  
for one who can reason analytically.'

A STUDY IN SCARLET

Analysis is the most intuitive aspect of Holmes' methods. He may assemble every tiny fact, observe every aspect of the investigation, but it is the moment of inspired realization, brought on by the purposeful use of analysis, that enables him to reach the revelation in a particular case. As he says to Watson in A STUDY IN SCARLET, when asked how he arrives at a solution: 'I have already explained to you that what is out of the common is usually a guide rather than a hindrance.

In solving a problem ... the grand thing is to be able to reason backward.' Such a way of thinking is very much part of the accomplishment of reading the tarot. We may know the intrinsic meanings of each card, even their relationship to each other, but it is the overall analysis of the cards as they lie before us that is most likely to bring the clearest answer. The Suit of Cups is associated with intuition and the emotions, and, though this analytical approach may seem at variance, it is this which enables a good tarot reader to draw conclusions from the most scattered and unlikely evidence.

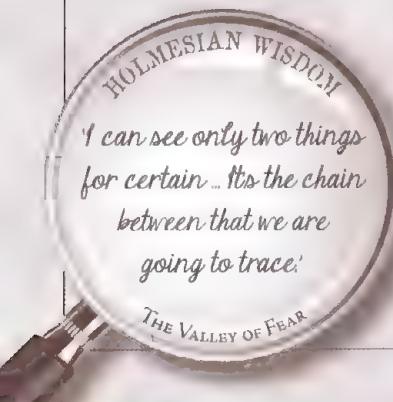


Sherlock Holmes' famous ability to fathom the deepest meanings from seemingly trivial facts is at the heart of his brilliance as a detective. Again and again, he makes a leap of intuition that enables him to connect one detail with another, assembling a complete picture with that lightning facility which amazes everyone who witnesses it. Here we see him contemplating a slew of papers that holds the answers to the puzzle. Amid the scattered fragments of the case, Holmes' analytical mind detects a pattern which only he can see. From this, he is able to nurture a tiny spark of understanding into a fully fledged result. In the same way, the Ace points towards answers gained by assembling many aspects of the overall reading.



**The Game** Piercing the mystery. Intuition. A sense of nourishment and emotional expansion. Recognition for yourself and your goals. Deep feelings bring understanding. Expansion or receptivity. Restoration or the promise of beauty and fertility after barrenness. Healing a rift within a group, family or nation. A new understanding of the situation is born. Responding to hidden factors.

**The Fog** A lack of understanding holds you back. A sense of sterility or limited emotional response. Lack of appreciation. An inability to express your feelings. Unrequited love. Trust is eroded through jealousy. A blockage or misunderstanding leads nowhere. Forgiveness is required.



### Keys

- ABUNDANCE • CLARITY • NURTURE
- HEALING • GLADNESS
- EMOTIONAL FACULTIES • FERTILITY
- RESTORATION FROM BARRENNESS
- 
- CHANGE • INSTABILITY • EXCHANGE
- BARTERING • FALSE-HEARTEDNESS



TWO

**D**uring the adventure of *The Sign of Four*, Watson meets and falls in love with Mary Morstan, who is destined to become his wife. Gone are the bachelor days of Holmes and Watson, sharing their rooms at 221B Baker Street. Watson leaves, now, to set up home with his wife and to practise as a doctor. But he will always be on hand to answer the call from his old friend, and we get the sense that he often 'escapes' from married bliss to the familiarity of his old way of life. Sadly, Mary dies of unknown causes (possibly cholera) within three or four years of marriage, after which Watson appears to resume his old life. Holmes, we are aware, feels the loss of his colleague, but this is overwhelmed by his very real affection for Watson. Here we see Watson departing 221B Baker Street. A hackney carriage stands by, with Mary Watson waiting within. Holmes looks on wistfully.

◆ **The Game** Pledges and promises, including engagement or marriage. Communicating your hopes and passions. Seeking reciprocation and partnership. Enjoying the give and take of life. A contractual partnership. Mutual sympathy around common goals. Reconciliation of different parties. Engaging the imagination. Making choices. The attraction of opposites.

◆ **The Fog** Going it alone. Realizing that lack of sharing hinders the way ahead. Breakdown or separation due to opposing needs. The reopening of old wounds. Opposition to work or vision. Group decisions fail through mistrust or division. A sense of betrayal.

### Keys

- LOVE • HARMONY • PARTNERSHIP
- CO-OPERATION • CONCORD
- EMOTIONAL RECIPROCATION
- 
- CRAVING • ENVY • GREED
- PARTING • INFIDELITY

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

'Should I ever marry,  
Watson, I should hope  
to inspire my wife.'

THE VALLEY OF FEAR

## THREE

Watson makes another appearance in this card, where he represents the generosity of spirit and ability to communicate that is the stock in trade of every writer. Watson is, to a large extent, Conan Doyle himself; but to Holmes, he is his 'Boswell' – the man who records his cases and turns some of them into stories (not always best appreciated by the great detective, despite the fact that they make him a household name and bring him clients). Perhaps the best summing-up is in *The Abbey Grange*, where Holmes states, unequivocally: 'Your fatal habit of looking at everything from the point of view of a story instead of as a scientific exercise has ruined what might have been an instructive and even classical series of demonstrations.' Despite this, Holmes relies closely on his comrade's skill with words. Here we see Watson at his writing desk, putting the finishing touches to his latest story, enjoying the satisfaction of a job well done.



**♦ The Game** The celebration of alliances. A period of refreshment. The consideration of things for the benefit of all rather than for yourself. Friendships you can rely upon. Entering into a fruitful collaboration. Mutual support and appreciation. The ability to communicate on many levels.

**♣ The Fog** Dissipation or doing things to excess. Loss of prestige. Unable to enjoy yourself. Having no time for recreation. Friendship strained by events. Rivals who subvert co-operative ventures. Gatherings of friends or colleagues are cancelled or hit by troubles. Feeling left out of everything going on around you.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'Oh, a trusty comrade  
is always of use; and a  
chronicler still more so.'*

THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP

## Keys

- GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT • SOLACE
- FULFILMENT • FORTUNATE CONCLUSION
- THE POWER TO COMMUNICATE JOY AND GLADNESS • A JOB WELL DONE
- 
- ENDINGS • SETBACKS • DELAYS
- OVER-INDULGENCE • ACCIDENTS



## FOUR



*N*ot even Watson can be eternally cheerful and upbeat. Holmes was not the easiest of companions, and one does indeed sometimes detect a hint of irritation on the part of the great detective's friend. This is especially true of the occasions when Watson tries to wean Holmes off his cocaine habit, or to keep order in their untidy sitting room, with its famous slipper full of tobacco and knife holding down papers on the mantel. But perhaps the most clear expression of the sense of lethargy and boredom associated with this card comes when Watson's old war wound, received during the Second Afghan War, flares up and keeps him chair-bound. Here we see him in pensive mood, staring out listlessly at the cityscape overshadowed by a lowering sky.

◆ **The Game** Feelings of apathy, dissatisfaction or lethargy. Boredom with the mundane or quotidian. Feeling stuck in a rut. Boredom affects a friendship or relationship. Dissatisfaction with life. Dealing with mundane matters that require attention. Experience embitters or sours things.

◆ **The Fog** A re-examination of life. Fresh avenues and possibilities are considered. A glimpse of change offers a different view. Working on the things that keep you stable. Seeking new friends and acquaintances. Fresh ambitions enliven things. Breaking new soil or sowing crops ready for a new season.

## Keys

- DISSATISFACTION • LETHARGY
- STAGNATION OF THE SPIRIT • BOREDOM
- THE NEED TO ESTABLISH GREATER EMOTIONAL MATURITY
  
- 
- NOVELTY • PREMONITION • PREDICTION
- FOREBODING • OMENS

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*... among your many talents dissimulation finds no place ...*

THE DYING DETECTIVE

## FIVE

Several times in Holmes' career, he and Watson face situations which appear to have a supernatural explanation. Holmes, however, always takes the view that there is a natural explanation. Thus, in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, he quickly dismissed the story of a hell-hound. In a less familiar story, *The Devil's Foot*, several members of the Tregennis family are found dead under macabre, seemingly supernatural circumstances. Holmes' investigation leads him to the plant *Radix pedis diaboli*, a hallucinogenic poison from West Africa. It is then used by the lover of one of the slain family to kill the murderer, in turn -- a death Holmes is unable to prevent, for which he upbraids himself thereafter. Here we see the revengeful Dr Leon Sterndale menacing Mortimer Tregennis, sprinkling powdered Devil's Foot root on the smoke guard of a lamp. The sense of delusion or disappointment associated with this card reflects Holmes' feelings of failure to avert another death.



**• The Game** Learning from your mistakes. Noting other ways and means. An inheritance or legacy. Acknowledging a source of grief or loss. Disappointment or regret. Friendship or alliances in trouble. Something is lost, but something is also gained. Broken agreements. Focusing on failures keeps things depressed.

**• The Fog** A slow recovery from loss. Hopeful expectations. Putting an unalterable past behind you. Acknowledging what doesn't work and starting afresh. Reunions or new friends come into your life. Long-lost kindred discovered. Discovering how failures pave the way to alternate strategies.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

'I take it... neither of us is prepared to admit diabolical intrusions into the affairs of men.'

THE DEVIL'S FOOT

## Keys

- DISILLUSION • DISAPPOINTMENT
- VAIN REGRET • THE ABILITY TO LEARN FROM MISTAKES AND ASSESS ONE'S LIMITATIONS
- BROKEN AGREEMENTS OR PROMISES
- ALLIANCES • INVITATIONS • REUNION
- LOSS OF AN INHERITANCE



SIX



*W*hen Sherlock Holmes finally decided to retire from active sleuthing he chose to set up a bee farm in Sussex. There, he studied the behaviour of bees in much the same way that he had previously studied human nature, and wrote a *Practical Handbook of Bee Culture, with Some Observations upon the Segregation of the Queen*. In *The Creeping Man*, when Watson responds to a situation with the words 'We can but try', Holmes replies that this is a 'compound of the Busy Bee and Excelsior', suggesting a link between the image of the industrious insect and the enthusiastic motto of many Victorian heroes! We see him here tending a row of hives, dressed in the customary hat and veil of the beekeeper, a perfect mirror of a tradition that enshrines ancestral memories and practices stretching back over countless years.

◆ **The Game** Rediscovering your roots. Nostalgia for simpler or happy times. Wistful remembrances of the past. Anniversaries that recall other times. An unselfish act. A sense of loyalty or obligation. Volunteer service to others.

◆ **The Fog** Being stuck in the past. New opportunities begin to show themselves. Steering by outworn traditions. Memory of anniversaries, sometimes painful. Playing on the guilt of another. Old events trigger difficult memories.

### Keys

- REST AND RETIREMENT • REDISCOVERY OF ONE'S ROOTS • ANCESTRAL MEMORIES
- THE PLEASURE OF REMEMBERED TIMES
  - A SENSE OF TRADITION
  
- FUTURE EVENTS AND PROSPECTS
- PROMISE OF BETTER TIMES TO COME
  - PLANS THAT MIGHT FAIL

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*I watched the little working gangs as once I watched the criminal world ...*

HIS LAST BOW

## SEVEN

Professor James Moriarty remained Sherlock Holmes' greatest adversary until his death at the Reichenbach Falls. Tradition associates this card with schemers who believe themselves to be the natural rulers over the fates of others. Holmes' description of Moriarty as the 'greatest schemer of all time, the organizer of every deviltry, the controlling brain of the underworld, a brain which might have made or marred the destiny of nations' perfectly describes the intention to be understood from this card. Here, in a pose not taken from any of the stories, but which sums up the description quoted here, we see Moriarty standing on the roof of a building, gazing out over the city of London with a look of cruel satisfaction. The city is his.



**6 The Game** Delusional belief in the power of the self. Wishful thinking. Caught up in unrealistic dreams. Indulging in addictive patterns. Rehearsing plans or events. Fashionable or influential trends. Exploring ways to exploit popular ideas. Building upon short-lived trends.

**7 The Fog** Cleaning the lens to get a clearer picture of the clues. Trusting the imagination. Implementing or manifesting your dreams. The realization of a collective vision. Anticipating what the public needs. Using imaginative solutions to continuing problems.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

Never have I risen to such  
a height, and never have  
I been so hard pressed  
by an opponent!

THE FINAL PROBLEM

## Keys

- SELF-DECEPTION • ILLUSION
- AN OVER-ACTIVE IMAGINATION
- UNREALISTIC FANTASIES
- THE GLAMOUR OF ESOTERIC PRACTICES
- A NEED FOR EMOTIONAL DISCIPLINE
- 
- PLANS • DESIRES • CLEAR THINKING
- AN INTELLIGENT COURSE OF ACTION



## EIGHT

*N*ot all of Holmes' clients were well-to-do or titled people; he saw a fair share of more ordinary folk, also. As he remarks to Watson in *A Study in Scarlet*: "They are mostly sent on by private enquiry agencies. They are all people who are in trouble about something and want a little enlightenment. I listen to their story, they listen to my comments, and then I pocket my fee." Despite this somewhat detached account, Holmes more than once waived his fee and offered help to those who needed it without profit for himself. In the context of the tarot, this card represents the client rather than the detective. A man stands outside 221B Baker Street looking up at the window, hesitating before he knocks at the door. His fears are perhaps even greater at the thought of facing the great detective than for his own troubles.

◆ **The Game** Looking for help. Searching for new values. Reconsidering your options before it's too late. Abandoning plans after rethinking them. Disenchantment with life, suggesting a need for attention. Emotional ambivalence or failure to commit. Feelings of abandonment or falling out of love. Being unable to satisfy friends or partners.

◆ **The Fog** Seeing your plans through to the end. Going it alone. Reinstating your original ideas. Exploring alternatives without obligation. Connecting with friends you have avoided. Evaluating everything from a more universal point of view. Paying off old debts. Finding fresh energy in collective ventures.

## Keys

- DISCONTINUANCE OF PLANS • SELF-PITY
- WITHDRAWAL OF ENERGY AND DESIRE
- AN OVER-FEARFUL HEART • MOVEMENT AWAY FROM OLD BELIEFS • THE NEED TO EVALUATE THINGS FROM A UNIVERSAL STANDPOINT
  
- HAPPINESS • SATISFACTION • DELIGHT
- FESTIVITIES • APOLOGIES • DEBTS REPAYED

"I put myself in the man's place, and... try to imagine how I should myself have proceeded under the same circumstances."

THE MUSGRAVE RITUAL



## NINE



One of the greatest moments in the whole Sherlock Holmes canon is that in which the great detective returns from the dead in the story of *The Empty House*. Having supposedly fallen to his death along with his nemesis Professor Moriarty in the Reichenbach Falls incident, he in fact survived and chose to go into hiding, in the hope of lulling Moriarty's henchmen into a false sense of security. The moment when he reveals himself to Watson is one of great poignancy, demonstrating the true affection that exists between the two men. This is nothing to the almost hysterical joy expressed by Mrs Hudson when Holmes returns. Nothing in the stories better expresses the essential meaning of this card, which is one of well-being and emotional satisfaction.



**¶ The Game** Emotional fulfilment. Your wishes are achievable. You enjoy physical well-being and comfort. You experience the relief of a job well done. Having confidence in your friend or partner. Travelling with a high heart.

**¶ The Fog** Becoming complacent in the face of success. Bathing in the reflected glory of others. Opportunities for widespread material benefit are lost. Shallow or self-indulgent attitudes alienate others around you. Misplaced expectations disappoint colleagues and friends.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'She has flown to tea as  
an agitated woman will.'*

THE CROOKED MAN

## Keys

- SATISFACTION • HEART'S DESIRE

- SECURITY • NURTURE

- EMOTIONAL CONTENTMENT

- LEARNING THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS

- MISTAKES • CANDOUR • LIBERTY

- SCIENTIFIC METHODS



TEN



**T**In *The Priory School*, Holmes and Watson investigate the disappearance of Lord Saltire, the son of the Duke and Duchess of Holdernes. The Duke, who is separated from his wife, offers a huge reward for the recovery of his son. Holmes and Watson discover that the boy was persuaded to leave by his father's secretary, James Wilder, who turns out to be the illegitimate offspring of the Duke. Jealous of the legitimate heir, Wilder sought to find a way of getting the reward and of possibly being acknowledged as his father's successor, employing a villainous fellow to kidnap

the boy. Holmes catches the criminals as ever, and the boy is reunited with his parents (Lady Holdernes returns and seems reconciled with her husband in the end). As a representation of this card, the restoration of the family is a perfect reflection of its inherent associations with fellowship and contentment.

◆ **The Game** Becoming whole. Contentment and happiness come to you at last. The blessing of hearth and home. Honour or reputation are recognized and celebrated among your peers. Lasting contentment with those you love. The delight of homecoming and welcome warms your heart. Community fosters contentment. The completion of a shared project.

◆ **The Fog** Dishonour or betrayal follow you. A quarrelsome home life spoils your contentment. Criminal destruction ruins everything. Exile or a long stay away from home. Exclusion from common joy leaves you discontented and envious. Emotional overload from family expectation. Destruction of land or property.

### Keys

- WHOLENESS • FELLOWSHIP AND FAMILY
- PERFECTION OF CONTENTMENT
- THE HOLINESS OF THE HOME
- PEACE AND HAPPINESS • THE COMPLETION OF DESIRE SHARED BY OTHERS
  
- ANGER • FURY • SORROW • INSULTS
- RAGE • VIOLENCE TOWARD OTHERS

HOLMESIAN WISDOM  
*This northern air is invigorating ... I propose to spend a few days upon your moors, and to occupy my mind as best I may.*



## BAKER STREET IRREGULAR



*N*eedless to say, the marvellous urchins that formed Holmes' unofficial spy network around London were frequently on the wrong side of the police. Chased more than once from underworld dives to which Holmes had sent them, they possessed the ability to blend in, to be more or less invisible, escaping unnoticed where officials would only be spotted and ostracized. Here, an Irregular flees from an angry toff, while a determined-looking peeler prepares to go after him. All of the Irregulars seem resolved to exemplify the way of good service, as is the Page of Cups in tarot tradition.



◆ **The Game** A loyal friend who is co-operative and supportive. Imaginative and thoughtful, he shows the way to fulfil our needs and desires, often through dream and vision. Willingness to help. A pleasant companion whom one can trust. Contemplation and consideration. Meditation. Making a good impression. Forgiveness. Fair play. Resolution of conflict.

◆ **The Fog** Emotionally vulnerable, easily swayed or selfishly absorbed in his own troubles. Someone needing reassurance. Refusing to listen. Living only in the imagination. Being influenced by others who are stronger than you. Jealousy. Abandonment.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

'Let us know a little  
more before we act.'

THE ABBEY GRANGE

### Keys

- WILLING • CO-OPERATIVE
- TRUSTWORTHY • SUPPORTIVE • FAIR
- WEAKNESS • SOMEONE EASILY INFLUENCED
- ATTACHMENT • CHARM • FLATTERY
- ADULATION • OBSEQUIOUSNESS



## PEELER

In *The Adventure of the Second Stain*, a stalwart police constable named MacPherson is unfortunately duped by the Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope. After he admits her to the room in which the suspected thief, Eduardo Lucas, had been murdered, she pretends to faint, and in the ensuing disruption she is able to retrieve a packet of stolen documents previously hidden in the room. Needless to say, both Holmes and the inspector on the case are less than happy with the performance of the constable's duty, but his thoughtful attitude and determined approach mark him out as a sympathetic character who represents the sometimes unconventional actions of the Knight of Cups.

**◆ The Game** Congenial to be with when exploring the shores of friendship, he is always responsive to others. Incorruptible and dedicated, he is a thoughtful champion, often willing to move outside the rules. Learning how to reach accord with an individual. Promoting harmony in any situation. Compliance or accord. A quest. A union or merger. A romantic gesture.

**◆ The Fog** A smooth talker who plays the field, or an addictive personality who plumbs the depths in order to be immersed in his own illusory fantasies. Exploiting an emotional situation. Temperamental and touchy. Being unrealistic or fanciful. Introspection, fantasy or lack of restraint.

### Keys

- CONGENIAL • DEDICATED
- INCORRUPTIBLE • THOUGHTFUL
- UNCONVENTIONAL
  
- DECEPTION • FRAUD • GUILE AND CUNNING
- ARTFULNESS • TREACHERY • SLANDER

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

'Experience ... may be of value ... you have only to put it into words ...'

THE ENGINEER'S THUMB



## LADY



**M**ost of the heroines of the Holmes stories are, of necessity perhaps, somewhat frail creatures requiring help to extricate themselves from their situations. An exception is Violet Smith, the very modern Edwardian heroine of *The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist*. She is the heir to a fortune, which she will inherit from her uncle, providing she marries. Violet is wooed by the unscrupulous Jack Woodley, who had known her uncle and seeks to lay claim to her money. Her suspicions are raised when she finds herself being followed by a would-be assailant as she cycles to and from work. She seeks out Holmes, who soon gets to the heart of the mystery. Violet Smith's individuality is well described by Doyle, and her sympathetic character makes her a perfect representative of the Lady of Analysis.



• **The Game** Empathic and foresighted, she can see into your condition, sometimes bringing comfort, sometimes disturbing your mood. She resonates with your emotional condition, for her words are guided by the heart. She imparts the gifts of love to those who encounter her. Virtuous process. Being emotionally mature. Dreams and visions.

• **The Fog** While she can cherish and take care, she may sometimes seem over-protective or smothering. She can also leave herself open to abuse. A heartless person given to emotional blackmail. Intrigue. Taking on or sending forth projections. Captivity to illusion. Impressionability. Denying your emotions. Being over-sensitive. Self-sacrifice. Security issues.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'It is part of the settled  
order of Nature that such  
a girl should have  
followers...'*

THE SOLITARY CYCLIST

## Keys

- INTUITIVE • SYMPATHETIC
- COMPASSIONATE • FORESIGHTFUL
- THE UPHOLDER OF RIGHT

- DISHONOUR • IMMORALITY • CORRUPTION
- INTRIGUE • A MARRIED WOMAN OF HIGH POSITION BECOMES CORRUPT



## INSPECTOR

This card is represented by Inspector Bradstreet of Scotland Yard. A stolid, practical, determined man, he appears in three stories: *The Man with the Twisted Lip*, *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle* and *The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb*. Described by Doyle as 'a tall, stout official ... in a peaked cap and frogged jacket', he originally served in Scotland Yard's 'E' Division, connecting him with the Bow Street Runners – the police force that pre-dated Scotland Yard. In *The Man with the Twisted Lip*, Bradstreet chooses to overlook the prosecution of Neville St Clair, the false beggar, to spare St Clair the trauma of shaming his family, embodying the message of generosity represented by this card. Here, we are in Bow Street Police Station. Holmes, watched by Inspector Bradstreet, prepares to reveal the disguise adopted by Neville St Clair.

**◆ The Game** A generous and caring person, calm, wise and considerate. As a friend, he is respectful of your space, giving you the freedom to explore what you truly need. Someone who can arbitrate when the clamour of many needs arises. Keeping a broad-minded perspective. Offering support. Counselling sessions.

**◆ The Fog** Someone inclined to melancholy or depression, he can be weak or ineffectual. Moody or melancholic. An exploitative individual. Enjoying the unconventional. Impatient of others' needs. A confidence trick. Dependency.

### Keys

- GENEROUS • CONSIDERATE
- BROAD-MINDED • A MEDIATOR
- OFFERS A SUPPORT NETWORK
  
- EMBEZZLEMENT • INJUSTICE
- BRIBERY • A SWINDLER
- A DISSOLUTE MAN • A HIGHWAYMAN

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

'Every fresh advance...  
only reveals a fresh  
ridge beyond.'

THE BRUCE-PARTINGTON PLANS

~ SUIT OF ~  
**DEDUCTION**  
{PENTACLES}



*'So much is observation.  
The rest is deduction.'*

THE SIGN OF FOUR

The Suit of Deduction (Pentacles) is about the use of Sherlock Holmes' most prodigious skill – his ability to conclude things from the tiniest facts or signs displayed by people or events. Holmes can deduce entire lifetimes of wisdom from the smallest detail: as he said himself in THE BOSCOMBE VALLEY MYSTERY, his method is 'founded upon the observation of trifles'; while, in A STUDY IN SCARLET, he remarks that: 'From a drop of water, a logician could infer the possibility of an Atlantic or a Niagara without having seen or heard of one or the other.' Such things can make a difference in all that you do and experience, and, in the readings obtained from this tarot, the clues are the seeds which enable you to grasp the deeper meaning of your issue.



ACE



Sherlock Holmes uses his phenomenal intellect and powerful brain to observe, analyse and sift the evidence. He is rarely wrong in his conclusions, which can seem preternatural but are, as he constantly tells Watson, the product of observation, contemplation and deduction. As he notes in *A Study in Scarlet*, which contains, more than any other story, a breakdown of his methods: 'Now and again a case turns up which is a little more complex. Then I have to bustle about and see things with my own eyes ... Those rules of deduction ... are invaluable to me.' In this card we see

him in typical pose, waiting to catch a criminal whom he has tracked to his lair. The outcome is inevitable: the great detective will catch his prey, handing him over to the bumbling officers of the law. The meaning of this card – essentially accomplishment – is perfectly expressed by Holmes' confident attitude.

**¶ The Game** Prosperity and promotion. You consolidate resources and marshal the facts. Abundance, attainment and fulfilment are available. Valuing your partner or friend. Making a firm commitment brings great rewards. Recognition of skills and talents. The inauguration of foundations. An outlay of resources may bear fruit.

**¶ The Fog** Learning the hard way. Money difficulties or responsibilities trouble you. You are overlooked in promotion. Greed and jealousy destroy friendships. Lack of resources puts a colleague at risk. Wealth is misused or waywardly administered. Risky investments. Misuse of public resources.

### Keys

- ACCOMPLISHMENT • CONTENTMENT
- HAPPINESS • PROSPERITY • WEALTH
- GOOD FORTUNE • PROFIT
- A NEW PHASE OF LIFE
  
- MATERIALISM • GREED • MEANNESS
- MISUSE OF WEALTH • FOOL'S GOLD

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

'There should be no combination of events for which the wit of man cannot conceive an explanation.'

The Valley of Fear



TWO



The relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Inspector Lestrade was always an uneasy one. There were times when Holmes actively sought the assistance of the Inspector, who on occasion helped track down criminals Holmes was after. But more often than not, Lestrade got in the way and sometimes positively blocked Holmes' work. Despite this, and with a degree of irony, Holmes seemed at times content to allow his rival to take the credit for a case which he had cracked. Here we see Lestrade holding Holmes back, as the great detective is about to hurry off. The Inspector wants to check everything before they make a move.



**◆ The Game** Assessing options. Daring to launch audacious new ventures. Careful choice of a friend or partner. Weighing up big decisions that will affect those around you. Entering into debate or arguments with another. Finding ways to budget. Gain and loss alternate wildly.

**◆ The Fog** Forced indecision from too many options. Sitting on the fence slows you down. The facts are spread too thin. Too many commitments alienate you from your friends. Fluctuating economies skew everything. Public opinion or peer pressures make an impact.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'All knowledge  
comes useful to  
the detective...'*

THE VALLEY OF FEAR

### Keys

- TARDY BEGINNINGS DUE TO INTEGRITY AND SCRUPULOSITY • OVER-CONSIDERATION
- THE ABILITY TO KEEP MORE THAN ONE THING IN THE AIR • CAREFUL CHOICE
- 
- TOO MANY DOCUMENTS • PAPERWORK
- RED TAPE • IGNORANCE • LITERALNESS
- PRETENDING TO BE HAPPY



## THREE



**T**he story of *The Six Napoleons* is one of the racier tales from the Sherlock Holmes canon. Involving anarchists, a lost treasure and evil foreign henchmen, it tells of an Italian anarchist named Beppo, who steals the priceless black pearl of the Borgias to fund his activities. Fearing the imminent approach of the police, he hides it within a bust of the Emperor Napoleon in the moulding shop of Gelder & Co. Later, his associates attempt to recover the lost item, smashing several plaster busts in their search for the one containing the jewel. Holmes correctly deduces the reason for these mysterious events. Here we see Beppo in the act of hiding the jewel as the police approach.

**◆ The Game** Giving your best to every case. Keeping faith with the highest values. You bring your best creative instincts to a friendship. You are an excellent craftsman. Planning renovations or improvements. Everything done to a professional quality. Rewards or certificates are given out.

**◆ The Fog** Your efforts are mediocre. Problems breaching the job market. Feeling unnoticed. Diminishing someone's efforts by faint praise. Past mistakes damage your record. You feel inferior or criticized. Commonplace views or popular values swamp the field. Undermining public interests by sabotage. Preoccupation with gain over value.

### Keys

- CRAFTSMANSHIP • CONSTRUCTION
- PROFESSIONAL MASTERY • PRACTICAL SKILLS
- HONOUR AND REWARD THROUGH SKILL AND GOOD ORGANIZATION • CREATIVE INSTINCT
  
- CHILDISH BEHAVIOUR • PETTINESS
- UNCERTAINTY • WASTEFULNESS
- LOW QUALITY

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*Art in the blood  
is liable to take  
the strangest forms.*

THE GREEK INTERPRETER



## FOUR



The story of *The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax* is a complex one, much of it taking place in a European setting. When Holmes is called in to investigate, he sends Watson to Switzerland in search of information. Watson learns that Lady Frances had last been seen with a missionary and his wife. He then follows a large bearded man who had been seen accosting the lady, only to discover that he's a former suitor who has made his fortune and wishes to marry her. Holmes then appears, having been present all the time in disguise, and the investigation continues.

It finally emerges that the missionary is an Australian conman called Henry Peters, whom Holmes recognizes from his torn left ear. He is captured in London when he tries to pawn a jewel belonging to Lady Frances, and she herself is soon discovered, drugged, in a coffin. It is Peters' greed that brings him down, making his story a fitting one for the classical associations for this card.

**♦ The Game** Financial security above all. Clinging to your resources. Being careful. Saving yourself for a better opportunity. Unwillingness to give compliments or encouragement. Clinging to what belongs to others. The creation of scarcity. Collecting or reserving resources.

**♦ The Fog** Being careless or profligate with money. Living simply. Returning to basics. Emotionally possessive of friends and partners. Time to be generous with others. Financial setbacks or a hazard to your possessions. Breaking monopolies or institutional blockades.



HOLMESIAN WISDOM

I presume nothing.

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

## Keys

- CONSCIENTIOUS AMBITION
- MATERIAL GAIN • POSSESSIVENESS
- SELFISHNESS • SPIRITUAL MISERLINESS
  
- OBSTRUCTION • LIMITATIONS
- DELAYS • THINGS ARE CLOGGED UP
- FINANCIAL RUIN • FAILURE IN EXAMS



FIVE



In *The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter*, Holmes is called in to discover the whereabouts of the star rugby player Godfrey Staunton, last seen leaving rapidly with a mysterious bearded man, having sent a telegram to an unknown source. Holmes tracks down the receiver of the message as a Dr Armstrong, who turns out to be a bogus practitioner supposedly looking after Staunton's wife – kept secret from his wealthy uncle and guardian to ensure the receipt of a fortune on the uncle's death. With the help of a talented draghound named Pompey, Holmes and

Watson catch up with Armstrong. There, they discover Staunton at the bedside of his recently dead wife, along with her father, the bearded man. Armstrong's part in the matter seems to suggest that it was his failure that hastened the death of Staunton's wife. The story's tragic outcome, and its connection to money and inheritance, exemplifies the meaning of this card.

**¶ The Game** Things take a turn for the worse. Insecurity, strain or barren prospects. Struggling with possible loss of livelihood. A sense of failure, poor self-worth or impoverishment. Feeling inadequate or impotent. A prevailing sense of misfortune or destitution. Scarcity of resources creates general panic.

**¶ The Fog** By accepting help, you rediscover meaning and self-worth. Persisting through difficulties, you win out. New friendships in adversity. Blaming your misfortunes upon others. Illness puts strain upon you and your partner. Hardship ebbs away. Charitable support relieves the need for better resources.

### Keys

- ADVERSITY • INSECURITY • LONELINESS
- STRAIN • BARREN PROSPECTS • DESTITUTION
- THE NEED TO BE FIRMLY GROUNDED
  
- RE-ACQUIRING SELF-WORTH
- GAINING PERSPECTIVE • NEW FRIENDSHIPS
- DIFFICULTIES BEGIN TO ABATE
- LEARNING TO GIVE GENEROUSLY

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'Ah! ... there we come into those realms of conjecture, where the most logical mind may be at fault.'*

THE EMPTY HOUSE



SIX



*S*ilver Blaze shows us a slightly different side to Holmes and Watson. Generally we hear little about Holmes' attitude to money, though he does accept his fee with alacrity on most occasions, nor is he much impressed by sport. In this story, however, the case revolves around the disappearance of a famous racehorse, and the murder of the horse's trainer. It does not take long for Holmes to fathom out that the horse is in fact not missing at all, but disguised by having its famous white blaze painted over. He also divines that it was the horse, at the time of its removal, that kicked out at its trainer and caused his death. Holmes elects not to tell the horse's owner right away, but instead watches it win the Wessex Cup, still disguised. Whether Holmes made use of his insider knowledge to make a bet remains a much debated question, but remarks he makes to Watson suggest that he might have won something on the race.



◆ **The Game** Generous gifts and sponsorship. Winnings. A legacy or money to take you to the next stage. Training or advice to improve your lot. Acts of kindness. Job-sharing, working in harness or mentoring others. Charitable donation or service to the community. Someone who takes you under their wing. Patronage, sponsorship or support. Rewards and dividends.

◆ **The Fog** Being unable or unwilling to receive. Denying your personal needs. Taking things for granted. Acts of selfishness which endanger your community. Being treated with little respect. Individual or national jealousy.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*The horse is a very gregarious creature.*

SILVER BLAZE

### Keys

- MATERIAL SUCCESS • WINNINGS • GOOD FORTUNE SHARED • GENEROSITY • CHARITY
- PATRONAGE • GIFTS • THE GREAT WORK
- THE EXCHANGE OF MATTER AND SPIRIT
  
- PASSION • DESIRE • LACK OF BALANCE
- SELFISHNESS • AMBITION • INJUSTICE



SEVEN



*T*here were times when Sherlock Holmes' actions seemed bizarre and inexplicable. In the case of *The Norwood Builder*, he correctly deduces that the evil Jonas Oldacre (described as 'a little wizened man with an odious face') had faked his own murder by John McFarlane, son of the woman who rejected him years before, and is in fact hiding in the walls of the house which he had built. Here, two anxious peelers, armed with buckets of water, watch in bafflement as Holmes sets light to a small pile of straw. As the smoke gathers, the man hiding in the secret room makes a run for it. Both Inspector Lestrade and the constables had doubted Holmes' actions; their disbelief carries the meaning of this card.

♣ **The Game** Self-doubt. Fear of failure or success. Taking stock of your life. Fruitlessly speculating on the outcome of events. Working towards shared benefits. Unspoken suspicions cast a shadow over a long-held friendship. Dissatisfaction with a body of work. People begin to question public policies.

♣ **The Fog** Overwhelmed by work. Loans, debts and financial worries. Poor investments that don't pay well. Perceiving someone's potential problems more clearly than they do. Feeling dissatisfied by the fruits of a partnership. Recurrent problems reveal cracks in an idea. Institutional policy conflicts with your personal values.

### Keys

- FRUITLESS SPECULATION • SELF-DOUBT
- BEING UNPREPARED • FEAR OF FAILURE
- LACK OF FULFILMENT • THE NEED TO ALLOW EVENTS TO UNFOLD
  
- MELANCHOLIC BEHAVIOUR
- ANXIETY • SERIOUS SETBACKS
- UNSOUND INVESTMENTS

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

'The smallest point  
may be the  
most essential.'

THE RED CIRCLE



## EIGHT



The great detective frequently resorted to disguise to enable him to enter places where he would have been recognized and almost certainly attacked. His skill in this was notable, and Watson more than once remarks that the stage had lost a great actor when Holmes decided to become a detective. Holmes admitted to having several hiding places throughout the city, where he could enter as one man and leave as another. As noted in *A Scandal in Bohemia*, 'It was not merely that Holmes changed his costume. His expression, his manner, his very soul seemed to vary with every fresh part that he assumed.' This ability perfectly demonstrates the dedication to detail and the application of method and skill Holmes brought to everything he did. In this scene we see him before a mirror, with the apparatus of disguise laid out carefully before him.



**♦ The Game** Work satisfaction. Attention to detail. Meeting your deadlines. Practising your skills of detection until they are perfect. Keeping your promises. Providing or receiving training to advance others. Productive or profitable undertakings. Assignments, inventories or productions are assessed.

**♦ The Fog** Drifting in a vacuum. Frustration after failure to get promotion. Repetitive menial work makes you feel undervalued. Shoddy productions or performances reflect on everyone. Large orders or commissions prove hard to meet. Noticeable workaholic absences. Living off the skills of others.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

'The best way of  
successfully acting  
a part is to be it.'

THE DYING DETECTIVE

## Keys

- DISCRIMINATING SERVICE TO A CRAFT
- PATIENT APPLICATION • BETTER RESULTS
- THROUGH GAINING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS
- APPRENTICESHIP • METHODICAL WORK
- DETAILED PREPARATION

- FLATTERY • VANITY • CONCEIT
- RASH BEHAVIOUR • UNRELIABILITY



?

NINE

?

This card is primarily associated with skill and accomplishment. Sherlock Holmes listed, among his many accomplishments, a variable knowledge of botany, especially belladonna (deadly nightshade), a practical understanding of geology, a profound knowledge of chemistry and sensational literature, and a good knowledge of English Law. He seems to have had small interest in the natural world, but he was also, as we have seen, a gifted violinist, using this particular skill to while away the hours, to aid his concentration, and as perhaps one of the few simple

pleasures he allowed himself. In addition to this, he was well able to defend himself, and lists a knowledge of baritsu, or the 'Japanese system of wrestling', among the arts he had mastered, as well as being an accomplished singlestick player, boxer and swordsman, all of which he practised while at college.

**◆ The Game** Creative satisfaction. Enjoying your accomplishments and advancing your knowledge. Emotional security. The enrichment of being with your partner. Enjoying solitary pleasures. Love of nature and beauty. A wealth of resources creates abundance. Basking in your own glory. Enjoying the outdoors.

**◆ The Fog** Over-indulging in the good things in life. Feeling trapped. Finding it difficult to relax. The paranoia that arises from being alone too much. Being undisciplined in your pursuit of pleasure. The dissipation of gains devalues all achievement. Leisure facilities or opportunities are inadequate.

### Keys

- ACCOMPLISHMENT • EASE • ENJOYMENT OF SOLITARY PURSUITS • LOVE OF NATURE
- AESTHETIC PLEASURE DERIVED FROM ONE'S GOODS • FULFILMENT OF PHYSICAL SENSATION

- SWINDLER • BAD FAITH • GUILT • THEFT
- OVER-INDULGENCE • STORMS AT SEA
- A THREAT TO SAFETY

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'get so little active exercise that it is always a treat'*

THE SOLITARY CYCLIST



## TEN



One of the best examples of Holmes' use of deductive methods is found in the story of *The Musgrave Ritual*. This revolves around the search for a lost treasure – a mystery that no one in the Musgrave family has been able to interpret. With Holmes on the scene, the matter is soon cleared up. Holmes quickly divines that the words accompanying the ritual are instructions to the resting place of the hidden treasure, and soon uncovers it. Here we see Holmes measuring the shadow from a tall oak tree; he uses a piece of string to gauge the shadow's length. His calculations will indicate the presence of the hidden treasure and the truth of an ancient mystery. The sense of ancestral bequest is clear in the interpretation of this card.



► **The Game** Enjoying the safety of hearth and home. Financial security and support. Spending time with blood relations or close friends. Acknowledging your debt to innovators and teachers. Ancestral wisdom enriches new generations. A sense of belonging to a group.

◄ **The Fog** Squandering the family fortune. Ancestral bequests change your life. A lack of support from predecessors. Burdensome care of elderly relatives. Rejecting traditional values in relationships. Ancestral expectations and duties hold sway. Traditional skills are lost to the community.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'It was easier to know  
it than to explain  
why I knew it.'*

A STUDY IN SCARLET

## Keys

- TRADITION • WEALTH • ANCESTRY
- INHERITANCE • PROPERTY • ESTABLISHMENT AND PERMANENCE • ENDURING PROSPERITY
- INSECURITY • CHANCE EVENTS • DESTINY
- FATE • GAMBLING • UNCERTAINTY



## ? BAKER STREET IRREGULAR ?

Sherlock Holmes' small army of Street Arabs were able to go to many places that he could not. He employed them in a variety of ways – carrying messages, spying on members of the criminal class, looking for clues on the ground. Holmes declared that there was more work to be got out of the Irregulars than a dozen police officers, and continued to use their services throughout his career, paying them a shilling a day, with a guinea extra when they performed particular services. All they needed was organization, and this he gave them. In the tumultuous denouement of *The Sign of Four*, the Irregulars were responsible for finding the steam launch *Aurora*, on which the villainous Jonathan Small was escaping. Here we see one of the Irregulars holding up his begging bowl, into which Holmes is dropping a secret message.

**◆ The Game** A brilliant student. Concentration or study. Learning the ropes. A friend who values authenticity over make-believe. Keeping things down to earth. Setting practical goals. Apprenticeship or training programmes. Schools, learning and universities.

**◆ The Fog** An idle good-for-nothing. Someone who is untrustworthy. Vandalizing property and mocking authority. Being out of touch with reality. Immaturity. Being impractical. Theft or public disorder. Instability or inertia.

### Keys

- WISE • DISCERNING • CAPABLE
- SUPREMELY PRACTICAL
- LISTENS TO PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE
  
- A REBELLIOUS PERSON • DEGRADATION
- DEBASEMENT • AN ANGRY MULTITUDE
- MEDDLING IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*In solving a problem ... the grand thing is to be able to reason backward.*

A STUDY IN SCARLET



## PEELER



Holmes' relationship with the constabulary remained a delicate one throughout his active career. He did, however, occasionally find that they could be useful. At the time, there was much less connectivity between the various local forces, but periodically Holmes was called in by – or ran foul of – among others, the constabularies of Hampshire, Norfolk, Herefordshire, Sussex and Cornwall. Their plodding, careful and sometimes clumsy approach never found favour with Holmes, but despite this he had respect for their honesty and determination, and was generally content to allow his own findings to be claimed by the various inspectors and constables he encountered. Here we see one such crouching beside a body, examining the evidence, including a fallen notebook and a small wooden box that has been broken open.



**The Game** A reliable and robust person possessed of stamina and determination. Naturally adept and with a craftsman's skill, he is a good person to have at your side because he checks all the possibilities. Maintaining a steady impetus. Seeing things through to the end. Obliging others. Taking pride in your investigation. Security. Persistence.

**The Fog** Dogged pursuit. Often pedestrian, plodding and materialistic, as well as not knowing when to stop. Missing a chance through lethargy. Being negligent. Unemployment. Lack of humour or compulsion. Inadequate self-worth.

HOLMESIAN WISDOM

*'Each fact is suggestive in itself. Together they have a cumulative force.'*

THE BRUCE PARTINGTON PLANS

## Keys

- TRUSTWORTHY • METHODICAL
- PATIENT • RELIABLE • DETERMINED
  
- APATHETIC • GIVEN TO IDLENESS
- STAGNATION • CARELESSNESS
- DISCOURAGEMENT • LEISURE
- INDOLENCE



LADY



**T**he inestimable and long-suffering Mrs Hudson, while not a member of the noble class, was indeed a lady of power and majesty. As the Queen of Deduction, she imparts the very strength and care that the landlady of 221B Baker Street provided for her eccentric lodger, bringing food when required, and standing guard between Holmes and his less salubrious clients. She was never happy at the appearance of the Baker Street Irregulars, who tramped mud into her house, but Holmes paid her well enough to withstand these and other incommodious activities. Here we see her bringing in a tray of tea things – the answer to most problems!

◆ **The Game** A practical and welcoming person who radiates good cheer. As a friend, she is loyal, keeping faith with you and being frank about issues needing improvement. She may be a treasurer who manages resources, or a curator, or a landlady. Managing things wisely, and preserving things of value, she may be active in art and design. Making things better. Providing amenities. Liberality of mood. A group or community.

◆ **The Fog** A hoarder of things or a squanderer of resources. A demanding or timid individual. Someone who defends her family against the world. A lover of luxury who wastes resources. Finding it hard to function. Familiarity breeds contempt. Refusal to nurture or support.

### Keys

- NOBLE • PRACTICAL • WELCOMING
- LOYAL • FRANK • IMPARTS A SENSE OF NURTURE AND SECURITY

- A SUSPICIOUS, NARROW-MINDED PERSON
- GIVEN TO VENGEANCE AND VACILLATION
- THE SOWING OF DISCORD • HESITANT
- IRRESOLUTE • TIMID





## INSPECTOR

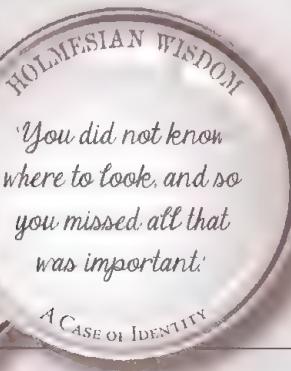


**H**ere the inspector is Tobias Gregson, a Scotland Yard detective first introduced in *A Study in Scarlet*, and subsequently in the adventures of *The Greek Interpreter*, *Wisteria Lodge* and *The Red Circle*. Holmes declares him to be 'the smartest of the Scotland Yards'. Gregson is described as tall and handsome; he comes closest to meeting Holmes on intellectual grounds, while acknowledging the great detective's superior skill in detection. Gregson sometimes chooses to overlook the grey areas of the law, including Holmes' breaking of a window in order to enter a premises belonging to a suspect. In *The Red Circle*, Watson observes that, 'Our official detectives may blunder in the matter of intelligence, but never in that of courage. Gregson climbed the stair to arrest this desperate murderer with the same absolutely quiet and businesslike bearing with which he would have ascended the official staircase of Scotland Yard.' Here we see him doing just that.



**◆ The Game** An experienced and mature person. As a friend, he keeps his promises. A good adviser, he offers keys to clever deductions. Appreciating the good things. Learning to handle money. Discovering the value of life. Financial support. Conservation of resources or environment. Sponsorship. Good health.

**◆ The Fog** Someone who exploits the resources of others. Possessive and unimaginative. Seeking protection or stability. Being tempted by financial speculation or scams. Financial corruption or bribes. Physical insecurity.



### Keys

**◆** • A GUARDIAN OF TRADITION • A TEACHER OF PATIENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY • STEADY AND ENDURING WISDOM • AN ABLE-BODIED SUPPORTER • EXTREMELY LOYAL

**◆** • A WEAK AND EASILY CORRUPTED PERSON  
• DISORDER AND PERVERSITY  
• VICE • AVARICE

## Wild Card



### THE GIANT RAT of SUMATRA

Sherlock Holmes had several cases involving Sumatra, an island in the Dutch West Indies. The villain in *The Dying Detective* had been a planter in the area, and in *The Reigate Squires*, Holmes and Watson investigate a case concerning the Netherland-Sumatra Company. But it is the reference to the case of the Giant Rat of Sumatra that gives us the subject of the wild card. This case is never written up by Watson, who declares it to be too horrific to describe, claiming, in *The Sussex Vampire*, that the world is 'not yet prepared' to hear it.

The wild card may act as both an independent significator and a means of locating stand-out cards within the deck which you need in order to pursue your enquiries. Full instructions on the use of this card, and how it affects a reading, can be found on pages 134–5. It has no specific meaning or Holmesian Wisdom, being outside the normal run of the cards.



PART THREE

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# THE ART OF INVESTIGATION

---

~ Working with the cards ~

‘We must see what further cards we have in our hands and play them with decision.’

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

## Becoming a Great Detective

The combination of observation, evidence, analysis and deduction, mixed with a healthy dash of intuition and interpretation, shows how profound the analogy is between the art of the detective and that of the tarot reader. All of these skills come into play as you work with the cards:

- ♦ **Observation** comes in from the start, as you observe the imagery and positioning of the cards (as well as the client, if you are reading for another).
- ♦ **Evidence**, in this instance, is concerned with the relationship of the cards to each other, and to the issue under consideration.
- ♦ **Analysis** extends this into a deeper exploration including the many levels of meaning within each card, which are often greater than those outlined in the interpretive readings offered here. And finally ...
- ♦ **Deduction** equates to the intuitive reach of the reader – the ability to see past the cards, and past the problem and the person who brings it (be it yourself or another), to grasp the essential facts of the case.

The solution, for Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson, is the capture of a criminal, or the solving of a crime; for the tarot user, the solution is the message indicated by the cards, and the direction and advice offered in the reading.

On the pages that follow, you will find a few suggestions of ways to deepen your work with *The Sherlock Holmes Tarot*, as well as a selection of new card layouts especially devised for this deck.

### *Waking up the deck*

As always when working with a new tarot, it is a good idea to spend time with the cards before you set about doing a reading.

When you first open the deck, and before you shuffle it, take a look at each card in turn, familiarizing yourself with the imagery, which while echoing that of a standard tarot deck, to a degree, also offers different images and interpretations. It is not simply a clone. When you feel you know your way around the deck, you might like to turn to the meanings outlined in this book and read these in collaboration with the cards. In particular, we have included background information on the characters and stories from the Sherlock Holmes canon; if the stories are not already familiar to you, you may wish to acquaint yourself with them before you begin working with the deck.

One of the things we found most exciting, as we worked on devising the tarot, was the way in which so many of the situations and ideas that arose in the Sherlock Holmes stories reflected the tarot's traditional meanings. This is not so surprising, perhaps, given the universality of the images, but we remain still agreeably astonished and delighted to find that, again and again, the actions of Holmes and Watson, as well as other characters, reflect the inner wisdom of the tarot.

You may, of course, wish to dispense with reading about the cards, or may decide to come back to it later on, preferring to uncover your own interpretations. This is perfectly fine, but do remember that there are a number of differences in the way the cards speak to us, so even if you are an experienced tarot reader there may still be alternative ways to interpret this deck. We have constantly kept in mind the precepts of Sherlock Holmes' own methods of working, and many of the meanings have been revised accordingly. But however you choose to introduce yourself to the cards, only time – and many readings – will fully open up their depths.

## Using the Wild Card

One of the most unusual aspects of this tarot is the presence of the wild card, represented by one of the untold stories from the casebooks of the great detective – The Giant Rat of Sumatra. This card can be used in a number of ways to enhance and qualify a reading. Because it has no intrinsic meaning of its own, it can act as both a significator for the person asking the question (thus leaving all of the cards free to be a part of the reading) or as a way of selecting specific cards from the deck (as you will see in the Great Detective spread on page 140, for example).

**As a significator** If you choose to use the wild card as a significator, simply lay it down before you shuffle and lay out the rest of the cards in a reading.

**To choose cards** If you want to use it to help choose cards, shuffle it into the deck and then search for it, selecting the two cards which fall above and below it. You can do this as many times as you need to complete the spread.

**For a quick answer** If you're seeking a quick single-card answer, you can shuffle the wild card into the deck and, wherever it appears, the card next to it is the card that gives you your answer. (You can decide beforehand whether to choose the card above or below it, or, alternatively, you could wait and see which two cards it identifies, and then select whichever of the two is more applicable to the issue in question.)

**To reverse a card** If you include the wild card in the deck and find that it comes up next to any other card chosen for the reading, that card may be read reversed – or, if it's already upside-down, you

can turn it upright for the reading. In this way, the wild card acts as a means of allowing the deck to refine the answer in a subtle way.

**To amplify or recast a reading** If, as some readers like to do, you draw an extra card to confirm or amplify the reading you have just completed, the presence of the wild card may be taken as an indicator to recast the reading or reverse the individual cards to give you a very different outcome.

### The Game, The Fog and Keys

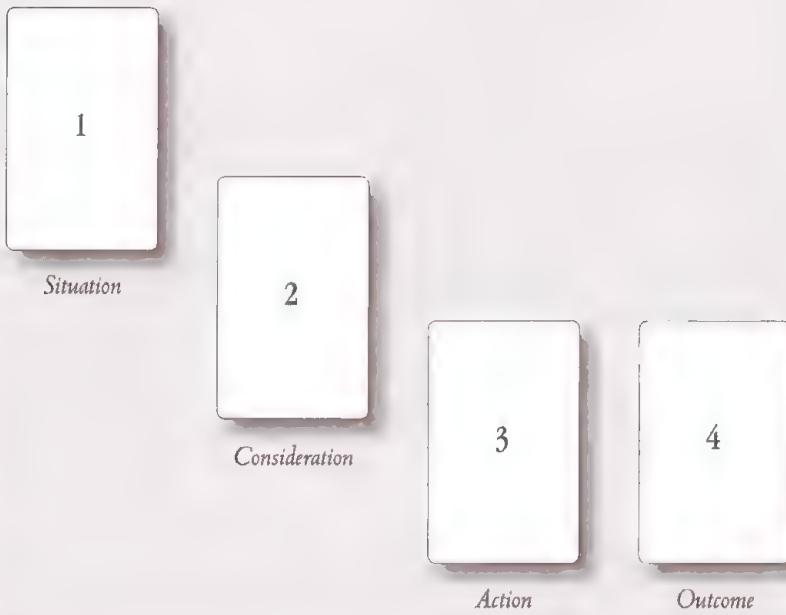
Many tarot users like to include reversed meanings when making their readings, so, to facilitate this, we have included meanings for both upward- and downward-facing cards. These are indicated with a symbol pointing upwards (for "The Game") or downwards (for 'The Fog'). The upright cards represent the game played by the detective in his or her quest to crack the case, while the reversed reading represents the hindrance, in the form of the opposing forces involved that are likely to prevent a successful outcome. The 'Keys' are the simpler meanings of the cards, and are intended as clues to assist in cracking the case. These also have negative aspects, as indicated.



## THE LENS SPREAD

The importance of the magnifying lens in the work of the detective should never be overlooked, and for this reason it stands for the card of The Sun in *The Sherlock Holmes Tarot*. Holmes himself frequently turns to his magnifying glass to find clues and details the naked eye might miss. In the same way, in this spread each successive card acts as a magnifier for the one that precedes it, so that the overall meaning becomes clearer as you proceed to contemplate each card.

Shuffle the deck with your question in mind, and lay out four cards as shown below.



The first position indicates the situation, the second requires you to consider the matter more deeply, the third suggests action to take and the fourth shows the probable outcome. The final outcome card is a product of the previous three cards, each of which adds to the overall understanding of the reading. The sample reading that follows gives you an idea of how this spread works in practice.

### The Facts of the Case

Alice is an experienced writer whose work is beginning to attract attention, so she is considering employing a publicist and generally working to raise her profile. She wondered what she should do next, and what effect it would be likely to have on promoting her work. The four cards she drew were as follows:



*Seven of Observation*



*The Final Problem*



*Lady of Analysis*



*Five of Deduction*

**1: Seven of Observation** The first card she understood to mean that she must seize the opportunity offered by the new interest in her work, and use her initiative to the fullest extent – and also, that she must be prepared to use every trick in the book to achieve her goal, and avoid missing an opportunity.

**2: The Final Problem** Alice then turned to the second card, considering the meaning of the first more deeply and using this second card to qualify what she had understood by the first. The essential meaning of The Final Problem she saw as raising the bar of public awareness by engaging in personal appearances and putting out press releases to announce the next project she was involved in. She needed to make contact with the public and find new ways to engage with them.

**3: Lady of Analysis** Next, she read the third card, the Lady of Analysis, which further amplified the previous cards by introducing a strong-willed, foresighted and empathic woman. Alice had been considering employing a publicist to further her career, and one of the female publicists she had spoken to seemed to fit this description. In conjunction with the previous cards, the suggestion seemed to be that if she was to further her career she must work with every possible resource to get her name in front of the media, and therefore the benefit of hiring a skilled and forceful publicist would easily outweigh the cost of the fee.

**4: Five of Deduction** To complete the reading, Alice turned to the outcome card, which, when combined with cards 1 to 3, gave her a final answer. The Five of Deduction suggested that a period of insecurity and struggle lay ahead. However, when interpreted in conjunction with the preceding cards (which she now reviewed

along with the outcome card), Alice read this as meaning that she must work hard and struggle against the tide, but that – if she persevered – she would recover herself and come out ahead of the game in the end.

From this advice she made her decision, deciding to push the envelope to the limit. She employed the publicist and undertook a gruelling author tour, which included TV and radio interviews. The response was overwhelming, and her career really began to take off.



## THE GREAT DETECTIVE SPREAD

*A*s we have seen, Sherlock Holmes' method involved the utilization of four primary actions – observation, evidence, analysis and deduction – and these are reflected in the titles and interpretations we have applied to the Minor Arcana suits. In this spread, you will be working with each of these elements of detection to locate the clues and understanding necessary to arrive at an answer. This spread is particularly useful for more complex questions or issues.

Begin by separating out the four suits into piles. Shuffle each of these with your question in mind, and lay them out in four piles as follows, face down:



Observation



Evidence



Analysis



Deduction

Now shuffle the wild card into the Major Arcana, still focusing on your question, then turn the deck over and pull out the card which lies above it. Place this card *below* the Observation pile, face up.

Do this three more times, shuffling the wild card back into the Majors each time, until you have a row of four Major cards below the four suits.

THE GREAT DETECTIVE SPREAD

FIRST PAIR



*Observation*

SECOND PAIR



*Evidence*

THIRD PAIR



*Analysis*

FOURTH PAIR



*Deduction*

5

*Major Arcana*

6

*Major Arcana*

7

*Major Arcana*

8

*Major Arcana*

Now turn over the top card on each of the four Minor Arcana piles. Read each one at a time, pairing it with the Major card that lies below it.

- **The first pair** suggests *things to look out for* in the situation for which you are reading.
- **The second pair** offers *clues towards the solution of the issue*.
- **The third pair** offers *further clarification of the reading*.
- **The fourth pair** concludes the reading and directs you to reconsider the first three pairs again, using your deductive skills to interpret all eight cards.

If you still require further clarification, draw another four cards from the Majors, using the wild card as before, and place these above the four Minors. Read them downward in sets of three, and see how they alter or clarify the answer you reached initially. The following sample reading demonstrates how this card spread works in practice.

### The Facts of the Case

Barry was about to go after a new job. He was very well qualified, and felt confident that he would be offered it. But he also felt concerned that leaving his old job would affect his colleagues – many of whom were friends – negatively. He asked if there was a course of action that could benefit him without causing a further problem for his workmates.

Having laid out the four suits face down, Barry turned over the topmost card on each pile. These were:

- 1: Six of Observation
- 2: Nine of Evidence
- 3: Ten of Analysis
- 4: Ten of Deduction

He then used the wild card to select four Major Arcana cards. These were:

- 5: The Blue Carbuncle
- 6: Bradshaw's Directory
- 7: The Great Detective
- 8: Dr John Watson

FIRST PAIR

*Six of  
Observation*

SECOND PAIR

*Nine of  
Evidence*

THIRD PAIR

*Ten of  
Analysis*

FOURTH PAIR

*Ten of  
Deduction**The Blue  
Carbuncle**Bradshaw's  
Directory**The Great  
Detective**Dr John H.  
Watson*

**First pair** He began by reading cards 1 and 5. The first card, the Six of Observation, suggested that he required new perspectives and a change of circumstance. It was also an opportunity to be an envoy on behalf of others. The Major card of the pair, The Blue Carbuncle, suggested that whatever action he took, the move would promote confidence and a better future.

**Second pair** Next he read cards 2 and 6. The first, the Nine of Evidence, suggested that it would be necessary to follow a path of dogged determination, allowing nothing to undermine his desire for advancement. There was also a sense of defending his partners

against all-comers, and he realized that he must not allow himself to become an adversary. The Major card, Bradshaw's Directory, indicated movement and the creation of his own luck, and to be aware of the cyclic aspect of life. Together, these suggested that movement should happen, but that care needed to be taken to protect the interests of others.

**Third pair** Next he read cards 3 and 7. The first, the Ten of Analysis, was all about accomplishment, reward and reputation, with a positive slant on all of these. The next, The Great Detective, again spoke of using every talent and skill to the full, and that his power and self-confidence would forge new alliances.

So far, all of these cards added up to the idea of a move being a positive one that would lead to success and satisfaction on many levels, but that the move needed to be tempered with an awareness and consideration for others. Barry now turned to the last pair of cards, numbers 4 and 8:

**Fourth pair** The first card of this pair was the Ten of Deduction, which told him that financial security would come of his decision, coupled with the sense of belonging to a group, which clearly pointed to his fellow workers in both his old and (potentially) new positions. The Major card, Dr John H. Watson, told him that he had the strength to keep going, and the resourcefulness to find a satisfactory outcome.

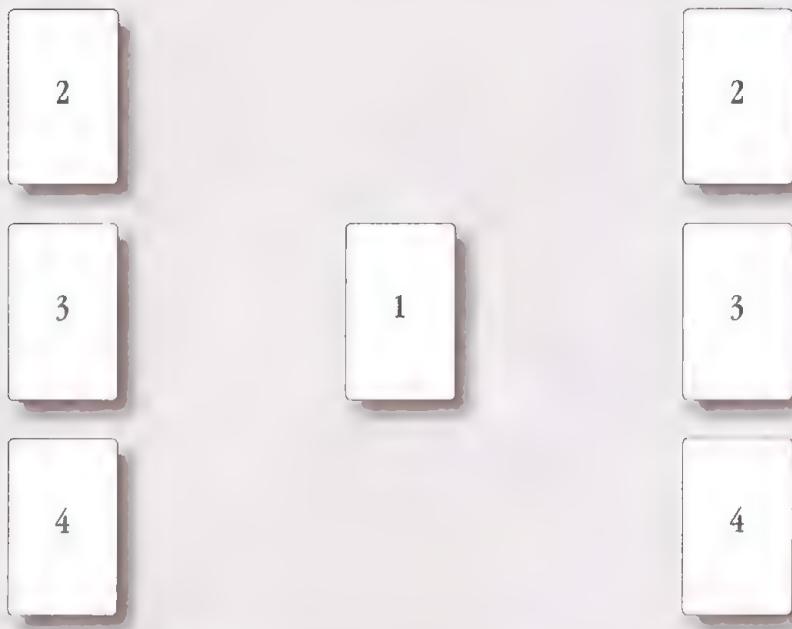
With this in mind, he reviewed the previous cards and, putting everything he had learned together with the last pair, reached the conclusion that he should accept the position in the new company, but only after he had found a suitable replacement for his present

post. He also took his colleagues fully into his confidence and succeeded in effecting the transition without problems. His new job proved to be a huge success, and he is currently enjoying a renewed sense of security.

## THE ENQUIRY SPREAD

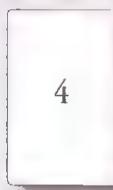
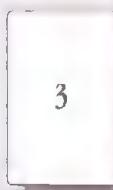
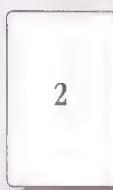
*M*ost professional tarot readers will tell you to avoid either/or questions, yet, in everyday life, choice-based decisions arise all the time. Here is a spread that weighs the evidence and allows you to see both options clearly, so that you can judge which course of action is best.

Shuffle the pack, keeping your question in mind. Draw a single card to act as a signifier to represent the question (position 1). Now divide the deck into two equal halves. Each half represents an aspect of the question. Draw three cards from each half of the deck and lay them out as shown below (positions 2, 3 and 4).

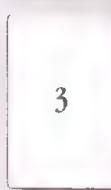


Finally, draw one card from the bottom of each half of the deck and place these to either side of the central card (position 5). These represent the deciding factors. The card readings are replicated in each column, and present you with Option 1 and Option 2 (*see below*).

OPTION 1



OPTION 2



You should end up with a roughly H-shaped spread, as shown above. The meanings of the card positions are as follows:

- 1:** The situation
- 2:** The advantage
- 3:** The benefits to you
- 4:** The disadvantages
- 5:** Deciding factors

You now have a balanced layout that enables you to read from either side of the central issue and use the two sets of cards – representing Option 1 and Option 2 – plus the two deciding-factor cards to work out the solution to your enquiry. The following sample reading shows how this works in practice.

### The Facts of the Case

James runs a small theatre company and was faced with a problem. Two actors had auditioned for the lead in a new production, and both were equally good. One of them was a personal friend, the other barely known to him. He faced the issue of whether to choose his friend, or potentially offend him by going for the second actor. He sought advice from the tarot as to which actor would give the better performance and therefore help the production most.

First, he drew a card to represent the production itself. As this was to be Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, he was delighted when he drew the Three of Observation, which has an element of tragedy about it.

Having divided the deck into two halves, he drew three cards from the left half (Option 1) and placed these in a vertical row. They were as follows:

#### **Option 1**

- 2:** Three of Evidence
- 3:** Six of Deduction
- 4:** The Hound of the Baskervilles

He then repeated this for the right half of the deck (Option 2), and drew:

## Option 2

- 2: Peeler of Deduction
  - 3: Lady of Evidence (reversed)
  - 4: The Hansom Cab (reversed)

Finally, he drew a card from the bottom of each pile, to place on either side of his significator card. For the left he drew the Four of Evidence, and for the right the Five of Analysis.

## OPTION I



Three of  
Evidence



Six of  
Deduction



Four of  
Evidence



## *Three of Observation*



## *Five of Analysis*



Peeler of  
Deduction



*Lady of Evidence  
(reversed)*



## *The Hound of the Baskervilles*



*The Hansom Cab  
(reversed)*

### Option 1 summary

James looked at the left-hand set of cards. The first card, the Three of Evidence, represented the advantages of casting this actor. James saw that he seemed to have good initiative and an ambitious outlook, presenting an air of masterly competence.

The next card, the Six of Deduction, representing the benefits to the company and the production, highlighted his ability to generously share the production process in an equitable way. An all-round player who didn't insist on celebrity billing was always a blessing during the run of any show.

Now he looked at the third card, The Hound of the Baskervilles, which represented the disadvantages to be considered. This indicated that this actor might have a tendency toward mood swings, or even some emotional instability. However, that might not be inappropriate for someone playing Romeo, who runs the gamut of his own moonstruck romantic infatuation.

### Option 2 summary

James now turned his attention to the second trio of cards. The first card, the Peeler of Deduction, suggested that the second actor – his friend – brought the qualities of dependability, professionalism and sound acting skills. He was perhaps less exciting than the other actor, but would work to the best of his ability.

The second card was the Lady of Evidence reversed, representing the benefits to the production. The reversed position suggested that, while actor number two was highly creative and his profile sufficient to act as a draw for audiences, his perfectionism and tendency to argue – along with an occasional over-commitment of energies – might make for a rocky ride.

The third card, The Hansom Cab reversed, spoke of the disadvantages of casting his friend. Their friendship could lead to an

over-familiarity and assumption on the part of the actor that he knew more about James' directing ideas than James himself, which could lead to uncomfortable incidents. The sense of a play out of control was flagged up by the reversed position.

With these statements in mind, James now turned to the last two cards – the deciding factors in the case.

### **Deciding factors**

To the left of the signifier representing the production was the Four of Evidence, which suggested a collaborative celebration, where the unknown actor and the play sat well together. The card to the right of the signifier, the Five of Analysis, suggested that casting his friend in this play might lead to the break-up of their friendship.

Having considered both options, and looked long and hard at the deciding factors, James elected to go with the actor represented by Option 1.

As it happened, Option 1 was the 'unknown quantity' – the actor whom he did not know – and James still felt some reluctance turning away his friend. The production came first, however, and he made his decision on the basis of the advice he received from the cards. The resulting production was a huge success, catapulting the unknown actor into the limelight. At the same time, James heard that his friend had been offered a lucrative TV contract, and was actually happy not to have been chosen for the play.



## NOTES & OBSERVATIONS



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## RESOURCES

The sheer wealth of material available to fans of Sherlock Holmes is too vast to include here. A brief internet search yields hundreds of sites, each one with its own axe to grind. The best, and most full of information, are:

**The Sherlock Holmes Society of London**

[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk)

**Sherlockian.Net**

[www.sherlockian.net](http://www.sherlockian.net)

**The Sherlock Holmes Museum, London**

[www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk](http://www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk)

**The Diogenes Club**

[www.diogenes-club.com](http://www.diogenes-club.com)

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**On the trail of Holmes & Watson ...**

Finally, if you are visiting London and fancy exploring the world of Holmes and Watson for yourself, you will find some great ideas at:

[www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/sightseeing/one-day-itineraries/  
sherlock-holmes-london](http://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/sightseeing/one-day-itineraries/sherlock-holmes-london)



## FURTHER READING

### Books on Sherlock Holmes

Of course, there are no substitutes to the original stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. These exist in countless cheap editions around the world, including several available to download without cost, but the ones we found most amazing are the wonderful volumes of *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes* (W.W. Norton, 2005). These are edited, with a foreword and notes by Leslie S. Klinger, one of the foremost authorities on the subject. His notes add hundreds of pages of information on virtually every aspect of the stories. While perhaps intended for the fanatic, they reveal the richness of the ideas that went into the writing of the stories.

There are also countless books which explore every aspect of the canon. Those we found most useful are listed here.

Johnson, Robert and Jean Upton, *The Sherlock Holmes Miscellany*,  
The History Press, 2012

Riggs, Ransom, *The Sherlock Holmes Handbook: The Methods and  
Mysteries of the World's Greatest Detective*, Quirk Books, 2009

Tracy, Jack, *The Ultimate Sherlock Holmes Encyclopaedia*, New York  
Gramercy Books, 1977

Watson, John H. (assisted by Gerard Van Der Leun), *The Quotable  
Sherlock Holmes*, The Mysterious Press, 2000

Weller, Philip with Christopher Roden, *The Life and Times of Sherlock  
Holmes*, Random House, 1992

## Books on tarot

Books on tarot continue to appear in astonishingly large numbers. Again, those to which we turned most often are listed here.

Fairfield, Gail, *Choice-Centred Tarot*, Newcastle Publishing Co., 1985

Greer, Mary K., *The Complete Book of Tarot Reversals*, Llewellyn Publications, 2002

Huson, Paul, *Mystical Origins of the Tarot: From Ancient Roots to Modern Usage*, Destiny Books, 2004

Kaplan, Stuart R., *Tarot Classic*, Grossset & Dunlap, 1972

Kenner, Corrine, *Simple Fortunetelling with Tarot Cards*, Llewellyn Publications, 2007

Place, Robert M., *The Tarot: History, Symbolism and Divination*, Penguin/Tarcher, 2005

Pollack, Rachel, *Seventy-Eight Degrees of Wisdom: A Book of Tarot (Part 1: The Major Arcana / Part 2: The Minor Arcana and Readings)*, The Aquarian Press, 1980–1983

Pollack, Rachel, *Tarot Wisdom*, Llewellyn Publications, 2008

Pollack, Rachel and Johannes Fiebig, *Tarot for Magical Times*, US Games Inc., 2012

Warwick-Smith, Kate, *The Tarot Court Cards*, Destiny Books, 2003



## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**John Matthews** has made a lifetime study of the legends of King Arthur, and more recently of the history of pirates. His list of publications totals over a hundred, including *Pirates* (Atheneum Books), which was a number one *New York Times* bestseller for twenty-two weeks and has been translated into eighteen languages. He has acted as an advisor on several big-budget movies. He recently formed his own production company, Mythwood Films, with his writing partner Wil Kinghan, closely followed by an e-publishing venture, Mythwood Books. His current projects include two new tarot projects, a history of shamanism, and a series of graphic novels set in the mythical landscape of the Wildwood (written with actor Mark Ryan), as well as several film and TV scripts.

John is married to the writer and teacher Caitlín Matthews. They live in Oxford, England, along with the Queen of Cats, Willow.

**Wil Kinghan** is a writer, artist and explorer of the Celtic traditions. He studied archaeology at University College Dublin and Environmental Design at NCAD, before working in advertising and commercial television as an art director, winning awards for various campaigns. On the literary side, Wil is a published poet with *Where the Hazel Falls*, and other previously published works include *The Shaman's Oracle*, *The Oracle of Dr John Dee* and *The Lost Tarot of Nostradamus* (with John Matthews), *The Celtic Wisdom Oracle* (with Caitlín Matthews) and *The Steampunk Tarot* (with John and Caitlín Matthews). Wil also writes for film and TV, and is developing several projects through his company, Mythwood Films.

Wil lives in Oxford with his wife Melanie and their daughter Annabelle.



For information about courses and workshops by John and Caitlín Matthews and the artwork of Wil Kinghan, please visit:

**John & Caitlin Matthews:** [www.hallowquest.org.uk](http://www.hallowquest.org.uk)

**Wil Kinghan:** [www.artisson.co.uk](http://www.artisson.co.uk)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To Cairlín Matthews for sharing her matchless wisdom and understanding of tarot, for reading the manuscript and making many defining suggestions. To our 'cast of thousands': Edward Blagrove, Melanie Kinghan, Caitlín Matthews, Emrys Matthews, Alistair Nunn and Glyn Roberts for stalwartly portraying a myriad of characters, from Holmes to Moriarty to Mrs Hudson; to Dwina Murphy-Gibb for letting us take photographs at The Prebendal; and to The Oxford Drama Wardrobe for the amazing costumes. To everyone at Eddison Sadd for seeing yet another deck through to the end. Without you all it would not have been possible.

JM & WK



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